DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 21 Section 1 April 24, 1925

PACKERS' CASE

The consent decree by which the "Big Five" Chicago meat packers agreed to divorce themselves from unrelated lines of business was ordered suspended April 23 by Justice Bailey, in the District of Columbia Supreme Court. The action was taken after Justice Bailey had denied a motion of Swift & Co. and Armour & Co. to vacate the decree entirely. In suspending operations of the decree for an indefinite time, Justice Bailey acted upon motion of the California Cooperative Canneries, which intervened as a party at interest. (Press,Apr.24)

FEDERAL FARM LOANS

Farm loan banks operating under the Federal Government's supervision have loaned to eligible farmers in the eight years of their existence more than $1,500,000,000, while up to the beginning of this, their ninth year, only approximately one-half of one per cent of the maturing underlying obligations were more than 90 days delinquent. During 1924, Federal Land Banks made loans to 40,227 borrowers and the Joint Stock Land Banks made loans to 11,390 borrowers. (Press, Apr. 24)

ST. LAWRENCE SURVEY

The press of April 23 states that final agreement has been reached by the United States and Canada as to the proposed joint action for the improvement of the St. Lawrence River between Montreal and Lake Ontario, in order to provide access to the Great Lakes for maritime commerce and to develop water power in both countries. The estimated expenditure would be $300,000,000. The outcome depends largely upon the report of the Joint Board of Engineers. The report is due not later than April 30, 1926.

BRITISH FOOD CONTROL

A London dispatch to the press to-day states that The Morning Post forecasts an interim report dealing with bread and meat by the Royal commission appointed last December to investigate food prices. The paper says it is understood drastic proposals are contemplated, among them the establishment of a new department of State, with authorization to examine the shopkeepers' books, supervise their methods of trade and even to become financially interested in importing.

WOOL PRICES

A Boston dispatch to the press to-day states that price prospects constitute the outstanding consideration in the present wool market discussion in Boston. There is a fairly representative division of the trade which maintains that there will be good business in May and that the prices will rise 10 to 15 per cent during the month. Although there is an abundance of foreign wool in stock a number of Boston buyers have gone to London to be present at the opening of the next wool series there on May 5, when about 170,000 bales are to be offered. How high they will go will depend upon developments at home before the auction opens.

Section 2

Agricultural Situation

An editorial in The New York Times for April 23 says: "It is with a sentence that should stir the Nation that ex-Governor Lowden began his address last night: 'Our agriculture is decaying and we seem unable to grasp the fact.' Since 1920 the farmer would have been better off as a farmhand. No longer are farmers tearing down barns to build bigger; new barns and fences and farmhouses are rare. Abandoned farms are found now in nearly every State as a quarter of a century ago, before the coming of the summer residents, they were found in New England solely or chiefly. The colleges and universities are crowded, but the agricultural schools are dwindling in attendance. It is a depressing picture, and despite all the optimistic interviews of financiers, encouraging magazine articles and ingenious index numbers to the contrary, Governor Lowden insists, it is a true one. Before there can be constructive improvement there must be a recognition and brave facing of the serious situation. It is not only 'serious'; the ablest farm economists agree that it is almost desperate.' This is due, in their estimate, to the great disparity between the prices of the things that the farmer has to sell and of those that he has to buy. Sheer necessity, growth of population and its greater demands, will bring about some adjustment in a long period of time; but under such a laissez-faire attitude there will be disastrous consequences, perilous to the people as a whole. ... What can be done to lessen the disparity referred to and hasten an adjustment before the worst has come? Mr. Lowden's answer is that agriculture must conform to the practices found necessary to the success of other great industries. Organize! Not that farmers are to adopt a corporate form of organization and operate farms through corporate management. It would be a menace to our social structure if farmers were 'to surrender their individualism in this way.' But organize for the marketing of products 'at a price which will enable them to live and go on producing.' Cooperative marketing is not an experiment either abroad or at home. Some associations have failed, but the mortality is no greater than among business organizations, and the prospect is that such associations, benefiting by their experience, will 'occupy the entire field.' This conscious constructive effort is, to this experienced and distinguished farmer who knows also the ways of industry and business and the concerns of a commonwealth as well, the only way out of the present depressing state of agriculture. It is the only way of achieving not only a 'balanced agriculture,' but also a balanced national prosperity. For in the last resort the prosperity and happiness of the country at large rest upon the shoulders of the farmer, as the earth did, in the ancient myth, upon the shoulders of Atlas. But the relationship spoken of is no myth, as also, according to former Governor Lowden, the desperate state of the farmer is not."

American Bankers' Meeting

An Augusta, Ga., dispatch to the press to-day states that at the annual meeting of the American Bankers Association, at Augusta, April 23, the business situation of the country was declared to be fundamentally sound, and "need cause no anxiety, since the menace of inflation has been removed," according to a resolution adopted by the executive council. But "in so far as our business prosperity has been the result of a revival of agriculture caused by undue diminution of crops in other countries of the world," the resolution sets forth, "the effect is likely to be temporary, but in so far as it has been due to the rehabilitation of Europe and the liquidation of old indebtedness on the part of our

agricultural population, the results attained are likely to be permanent."

Burton H. Smith, chairman of the agricultural commission, reported that the forty-eighth State bankers'association had appointed an agricultural committee so that the organization of this work is now 100 per cent complete. "The machinery is now available for reaching every county in the United States," he said. "The commission is able to carr. suggestions and experiences from one State conference to another and lend what assistance it can in formulating constructive programs. Since October, conferences have been held in thirty-six States. Not only is there a committee in every State, but these committees have definite programs of work. In most States the programs have been published and sent to every bank. These blanks acquaint the banks with the work the committee has outlined and invite them to join in encouraging and stimulating one or more of the projects."

Canada's Wheat Exports

An editorial in The Washington Post for April 23 says: "Canada stands first as a wheat exporting country. That is the interesting announcement of the statisticians, which is practically though not absolutely true. It is true that Canada in 1923 exported more wheat than the United States, and it seems probable that she will continue generally to do so; though she has not yet reached our maximum of exports, nor indeed equaled the figures which we attained in several recent years Nevertheless we shall probably see her hereafter regularly exporting more wheat than we do, or than any other country in the world does. This result has been attained through such an increase of wheat acreage during the last twenty years as no other country has ever known. Thus from 1903 to 1913 Canada increased her acreage by 125 per cent, her crop by 197 per cent, and her exports by no less than 371 per cent. That tremendous pace could not be maintained. But yet in the next decade, 1913 to 1923, she increased her acreage by 107 per cent, her crop by 104 per cent, and her exports by 143 per cent. In the present decade, 1923 to 1933, she is expected to increase each of these three quantities by nearly if not quite 100 per cent. At the present time Canada is producing more than one-half as much wheat as the United States, and of course with her so much smaller population she is able to export a far larger proportion of it than we. In 1923 her exports were about 275,000,000 bushels, against our 156,429,000. That gave her the lead over us, though she was still far short of our phenomenal maximum of 366,000,000 bushels in 1920. But as her crops are steadily and indeed rapidly increasing, while ours are practically stationary save for fluctuations, she is likely to hold her primacy. It will be observed, not to our satisfaction or credit, that her yield to the acre is much larger than ours. In 1923, for example, it was 20.75 bushels, against our 13.47. Doubtless the explanation is, very largely, that Canada planted a much larger proportionate area of fertile virgin soil than we, and it is possible that after her farms have been cultivated a number of years their yield will decrease. It is to be observed, however, that our largest yield is not on the newest fields, but rather in the old States of the East and Middle West, on land that has been cultivated for many years; a circumstance which suggests the possibility of increasing our average to equal Canada's figures, through the use of fertilizers to counterbalance her virgin plains."

Cream Dealers on Tariff Cornelius A. Parker, representing the Cream Dealers' Association of New England, who fears that an increase in the tariff on butter which American producers are seeking will be an invitation to increase the cost of cream, at the Tariff Commission hearing on April 22, opposed the granting of added protection. Mr. Parker declared that the price of cream already is as high as the American public is willing to pay. He pointed out that at certain seasons of the year a large amount of cream is imported from Canada. The tariff on cream now is 20 cents a gallon up to 45 per cent of butter fat, above which it takes the 8 cent rate applicable now to butter. W. H. Bronson, economist, representing the New England Milk Producers' Association, argued that an increase in the butter tariff, which he favors, should be accompanied by an increase in the milk and cream tariff, otherwise these products would not be in line with butter. He said that a high rate on butter would have a tendency to invite the importation of larger quantities of cream from Canada and from Denmark, it being found feasible to bring cream from the latter country, to be converted into butter. (Press, Apr. 23.)

Grain Marketing The National Grain Journal (Minneapolis) for April says: "We hope the new Secretary of Agriculture will realize that private interests are now and always will handle the farmers' grain cheaper at the large distributing centers than the farmers can handle their own grain for themselves. Constantly advocating Government measures so that farmers may market their grain direct is seriously injuring present marketing machinery, as that propaganda creates a state of uncertainty which results in terminal market interests declining to make improvements and additions in their plants, which are needed and which will perfect facilities so that handling costs will be reduced and more money given to the farmer for his grain. Terminal market interests can not be expected to make large investments in equipment when new marketing machinery is being constantly advised through the Department of Agriculture or any other Government agency. The cost of marketing grain will be reduced, and the amount of the reduction paid the farmer at his wagon, when the trade is let alone, and confidence in the trade restored. If a Government agency is set up to market grain, in proportion to its success will it reduce competition, and when competition is reduced the cost of marketing will be increased. Big private interests handling domestic and export grain should be left alone so that the competition they create between themselves will increase the price they pay to get the volume of business necessary as going concerns. The high price-level last fall resulted in a volume of shipments from local points which was greater than facilities could handle at many of the big centers. To meet another peak condition terminal interests would naturally feel disposed to increase storage and handling capacities, all of which will accrue to the producers' benefit. But does the Secretary of Agriculture imagine those big interests, or the financial institutions helping to finance them, will feel safe in expending the large sums necessary as long as his department advocates some new method or untried scheme? If the new Secretary would come out flat-footed and let it be known he will not tolerate his department, or any branch of it, to become active in disrupting present grain marketing machinery, he would perform the greatest single act to help his farmer friends that lies before him at this time. Because of the nature of it there is no class of business which is as sensitive as the grain business. To function to its utmost in the producers' interest all strain should be lifted from the grain trade's nervous system."

Rubber Price

A London dispatch to the press of April 21 states that the high price of rubber is due to the increased demand and not to decreased production, is The London Times comment on the complaint of Harvey Firestone, the American automobile tire manufacturer, that the British price control is making motoring expensive for the American car owners. It says: "The restriction certainly has had a number of effects on the rubber industry, but this is not one. The increased consumption of rubber alone is responsible for the recovery in the fortunes of the rubber industry. Restriction on British plantations has reduced their output and raised their costs and caused them to earn smaller profits than their unrestricting competitors, but the reduction in their output has been more than equaled by the increase of duties on the output. Consequently the production of rubber last year was greater than the year preceding the compulsory restricting scheme. The failure to realize the increased consumption of rubber and not the reduction of output is the real factor which brought about the improvement in the position of the rubber industry and has led people to jump to all kinds of erroneous conclusions."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

The Florists Exchange for April 18 quotes an article from the Seattle Sunday Times for April 5, which says: "Whether the quarantine regulations formulated by the Federal Horticultural Board, are a benefit to the horticultural industry of this country or a menace to foreign trade is a question raised by A. Vanderspek, president of the North Pacific Mortgage Company. Mr. Vanderspek expresses the fear that a continuance of the regulations which affect shipments of certain plants and horticultural products to this country from Europe may result in retaliatory measures, closing the European markets to United States products, particularly apples. The State development committee of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce has been investigating the question raised by Mr. Vanderspek and has received recommendations for a continuance of the quarantine regulations. ... Mr. Vanderspek, in a letter to The Times, says: 'I read with much interest your editorial on "Apple Trade" in The Seattle Times of March 16, and was glad to see from it that you are fully aware of the great importance of the European export market for our northwestern apples. That market has been growing in importance rapidly the last few years, in which the apple production in the United States has increased in the Eastern States as well as in the Pacific Northwest. As manager of a company which operates more than a thousand acres of orchards in Washington and Oregon, and spends a few hundred thousand dollars every year in the production of apples and pears, a large part of which production is exported to Europe, and has further invested a substantial amount in apple orchard securities besides, I am very vitally interested in the present and future welfare of the northwestern fruit growers. The statement in your editorial that the Pacific Northwest apple industry will derive benefit from an "Eat More Fruit" campaign in England would therefore have filled me with real happiness in an anticipation that our losses of the last few years were going to be replaced by profits in the future, if it had not been so plain to me that before very long the principal apple-importing countries of Europe are exceedingly apt to impose an embargo against apples from the United States. In the case of England, which you mentioned as carrying on an "Eat More Fruit" campaign, this would mean that the benefit of that

campaign would go solely to the apple growers in other countries, while the apple growers of the Pacific Northwest would be on the rocks of financial ruin, "Eat More Fruit" campaigns in England notwithstanding. ..."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 23: Chicago hog prices closed at $12.40 for the top and $12.10 to $13.30 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.65 to $10.85; butcher cows and heifers $4.40 to $10.75; feeder steers $5.65 to $8.65; light and medium weight veal calves $7 to $11; fat lambs $12.75 to $15; feeding lambs $13 to $14.25; yearlings $8.75 to $11.50 and fat ewes $5.75 to $8.75.

New York sacked Round White potatoes sold to jobbers at $1 to $1.15 per 100 pounds in eastern cities. Maine sacked Green Mountains $1.15 to $1.35 in city markets; bulk stock 40 to 45¢ f.o.b. Yellow Bermuda onions tended stronger at $1.75 to $2.00 per crate, commercial pack, in consuming markets; dealers asking high as $1.40 to $1.50 f.o.b. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage higher in New York at $2 to $2.25 per barrel crate, weaker in other markets ranging mostly $1.50 to $1.90. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, declined at $4.50 to $5.50 per original six-basket carrier in eastern cities; repacked $6 to $7 in Chicago. Best North Carolina strawberries, various varieties, declined to 22¢ to 30¢ quart basis and $7.50 to $9.00 per 32-quart crate in the East, $5.50 to $7.25 cash to growers at North Carolina points.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 46¢; Chicago 45¢; Philadelphia 47¢; Boston 46 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted April 23: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.47 to $1.78; No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.83 to $1.90; Kansas City $1.68 to $1.71. No. 4 red winter Chicago $1.71 1/2. No. 2 hard winter Kansas City $1.49 to $1.50; St. Louis $1.60; No. 4 hard winter Chicago $1.52. No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.05; Minneapolis $1.01 1/4 to $1.03 1/4. No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.01 1/2 to $1.02 1/2. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.12 to $1.13 3/4; Kansas City $1.08. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.07 3/4 to $1.10; Minneapolis $1.04 1/4 to $1.06 1/4; No. 2 white corn St. Louis $1.10 1/2 to $1.11; Kansas City $1.07 to $1.08. No. 3 white oats Chicago 42 3/4 to 43 1/2¢; Minneapolis 40 1/4 to 40 3/4¢; St. Louis 45 1/2¢; Kansas City 44 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 34 points, closing at 24.57¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 38 points, closing at 24.16¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 23	Apr. 22	Apr. 23, 1924
20 Industrials	120.82	120.52	90.43
20 R.R. stocks	95.52	95.61	81.41

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 24.)

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Vol.XVII, No. 22 Section 1 April 25, 1925

PACKERS' CASE A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day says: "The large packers continued April 24 to refrain from indicating any future course as a result of the lifting of restraint of the consent decree, which was suspended by Justice Bailey, of the District of Columbia Supreme Court. The consent decree limited the packers to operations in lines related only to meat packing, and compelled them to divert themselves of unrelated lines, such as groceries, canned goods and similar lines. In a statement commenting on the suspension of the decree, Armour & Co. said: 'It is apparent that the Court has sustained the contention we have always insisted on, namely, that the decree was not based on any violation of the law. The Court's opinion states that the decree was entered without the taking of any proof showing that the defendants had violated or were about to violate any of the laws of the United States. This, we have repeatedly pointed out, was the fact, and the decree itself so stated.'"

NITROGEN TARIFF On motion of Marion De Vries, former presiding judge of the Court of Customs Appeals and now practicing law in New York, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals April 24 allowed a writ of error to the United States Supreme Court in the proceeding of the Norwegian Nitrogen Company against the Tariff Commission. This proceeding is to test the flexible tariff features of the Tariff act before the highest tribunal, whose decision will be final. The whole case will be reviewed by the Supreme Court, including review of the decision of the Court of Appeals as to what constitutes trade secrets and processes under the statute, what data and evidence collected by the Tariff Commission interested parties appearing have the right under the law to inspect and be heard upon, including also the question, if the Supreme Court wills to consider it, of the constitutionality of the flexible tariff. (Press, Apr. 25.)

FINANCING MINNESOTA FARMERS A Minneapolis dispatch to the press of April 25 says: "Despite strong opposition, the Legislature has voted another $30,000,000 for credit aid to farmers. This will make a total of $70,000,000 that the State has provided in two years to finance farmers. Governor Christianson, who opposed the additional aid, said he would endeavor to keep the issue of bonds well under the $30,000,000 allowed. There has been much criticism of the handling of the rural credit funds, a legislative inquiry showing that many excessive loans were made."

BRITISH FOOD COUNCIL A London dispatch to the press to-day states that setting up of a National Food Council, empowered "to obtain if necessary sensible shareholding influence in the South American chilled meat importing trade," is one of the recommendations of the Geddes Food Price Commission, according to The Morning Post, which adds: "The Commissioners have much to say about meat trusts in North and South America, connection of these with importing and multiple shop companies in this country, operations of producers' associations in the antipodes, and the effect of all this on prices the British housewife has to pay for meat."

Section 2

Agricultural Development

After passing through two distinct stages of development, the first characterized by diversified production for the farmer's own home and for limited nearby markets, and the second one of quantity production in connection with the inauguration of long-distance transportation, American agriculture is now entering into the third great epoch in its history, according to Raymond A. Pearson, president of Iowa State College. This third phase, he says, is to be characterized by good business methods and with a due regard to the establishment of a permanent agriculture of high-grade caliber. The reasons why agriculture is changing from a period of quantity production, with a constant surplus and with world prices prevailing, to a period of good agricultural business, are called overwhelming by Professor Pearson, who lists some of them as follows: (1) Land values have increased; (2) taxes have increased; (3) cost of farm labor has increased; (4) cost of building has increased; (5) cost of farm supplies has increased; (6) cost of transportation has increased. "Some of these increases," he points out, "have been very large; for example, increases of taxes, which are indicated by national disbursements. The national expenditures in 1880 were $268,000,000 and in 1920 they were $6,142,000,000. In the same period of forty years the population a little more than doubled. The great increase of expenditures is only partly accounted for by the war. Omitting war expenditures, that item increased in far greater proportion than the increase in population. Attention now must be given to the value of plant food. The reserve in the soil is our capital. It is being seriously depleted. The value of plant food at market rates carried out of one State in the agricultural products shipped beyond the borders is about $30,000,000 annually. World prices will be kept as low as other countries can keep them. To do this they are exercising their best ingenuity and expending large sums of money to discover more scientific knowledge and to apply this to agricultural production. Most of us fail to realize the great progress that is being made in developing agricultural science in other countries. ...

"It seems that to any one who has faith in the future of our country the reasons just given must be convincing. Our agriculture must be put upon a better business basis. We must know the business side of it better and be guided more by business records. All the many factors going into the cost of production must be considered, even to the plant food that is taken away by the crop. Agriculture conducted on business principles, with a view to permanency and with due regard to the important relations between rural life and national life, will be characterized by five outstanding features or lines of progress. Research or education which does not serve directly or indirectly to strengthen one of these lines is below 100 per cent efficient. It would be interesting to see percentage marks that would truly represent the worth of research efforts in the name of agriculture and now in progress, and with due allowance for a reasonable share of research work along fundamental lines which might apply in some unexpected ways to the solution of agricultural problems in the future. And it would be equally interesting to see percentage marks representing the real worth of our various courses of instruction in agriculture. The five essentials for the kind of agriculture we want to see and the kind we should encourage in every way possible are: (1) Careful business methods; (2) maintenance of fertility; (3) good homes and surroundings; (4) fair legislation; (5) patriotic citizenship." (N.Y. Times, Apr. 24.)

Agricultural Position "The extensive betterment of the general position of the farmers without resort to artificial price-making or valorization of their commodities has demonstrated the effectiveness of other and sounder measures. Cooperation is proving helpful in many directions and systematic effort to give increased attention to the familiar problems of business management, can do more than governmental price-making to promote the prosperity of the farmers." (From Resolutions of Am. Bankers Assoc., Augusta, Ga., Apr. 23.)

Butter Prices An editorial in The Pacific Dairy Review for April 9 says: "The season of the year is at hand when the minds of dairymen, creamerymen and butter dealers are busy trying to forecast the bottom of the butter market for the coming flush season. Last fall it seemed to be an easy guess among the butter dealers, especially for those who had stored heavily of last year's surplus. The most apparent thing now is that the guesses made then are way off now. The cheap butter that they thought they saw ahead of them for this season is not showing any striking evidence of putting in its appearance. This is becoming evident as the new season approaches, especially here in California. When storage operators last fall made their declarations that they would store no forty-cent butter this season, as they did last year, the situation was a different one from what it is to-day. Then the storage houses were full of butter. It not only moved slowly, but the make of fresh butter continued heavy up into the fall. That excess storage butter has all but disappeared, consumption continues heavy and many farmers in the Middle States, who milked cows to tide them over the depression in grain and hog farming, are going back to their favorite lines of farming as a result of the advances in grain and pork. This fact, coupled with the prospect that the Eastern States will not likely again enjoy an abnormal abundance of feed as was the case last year, presents a most favorable prospect for the farmers who normally milk cows. It is not surprising, therefore, that the butter trade has modified its views considerably as to the prospect for lower butter prices this season. A dealer expressed the view held by the local trade generally when he said one day this week that butter would go into storage this season at nearer forty cents than thirty cents and that it might be as near to forty cents as to thirty-five cents."

Farm Industry An editorial in Farm & Ranch for April 18 says: "Practically every day in the mail brings to Farm and Ranch an announcement of an agricultural conference to be participated in by industrial leaders in various lines. Agriculture is uppermost in the minds of the people. When steel barons, wholesale drygoods men, railroad presidents, and manufacturers take time off from their business to attend meetings that have to do almost solely with the agricultural industry, it is time for farmers to realize more fully the important part they are expected to play in the future development of this country. ... It is complimentary to the agricultural industry that it should hold a place of such importance in the minds of the business men of the country. Our industrial leaders have been the first to realize the necessity of closer cooperation with those who produce the food and feed of the Nation. They know that they can not prosper unless farmers prosper. They have learned this lesson and will not forget it. To bring about more complete cooperation, however, the farmers of the country must meet business men and industrial leaders in a spirit of friendliness instead of being suspicious and resentful. The

agricultural industry can no longer stand alone and aloof from the world Those engaged in it must have open minds and be capable of meeting men in other lines in frank and open discussion of the problems which must be met and solved."

Farm Land Values An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer for April 18 says: "Many people are coming to the belief that the farms of the Nation are over-capitalized. This means that the actual and estimated value of farm lands is too high and is not warranted by the average income per acre. This over-valuation finally finds its way to the assessor's book and as a result the taxes are out of proportion to the income from the farm. The rental value of city property is a more certain thing and the market value of such property is based upon its actual or potential returns. So far the price of farm property has never been based upon the income produced, but is arrived at by what the owner and the buyer secretly believe is its speculative value. The question often asked but never answered, 'Why has the price of farm land advanced practically seven per cent per year for the last fifty years?' needs some honest and intelligent investigation."

Farm Machinery An editorial in American Agriculturist for April 18 says: "The automobile has been a factor in influencing the lack of purchase of necessary farm machinery. In 1923, only three cents of the farm dollar were spent for farm equipment; nine cents were spent for automobiles and their up-keep; and four cents for radios, jewelry and phonographs. We do not believe that any too much money was spent by the average farm family for amusement. Some of the money that went into the automobiles also helped the farm business, and in general farm people have too little recreation. But these figures do emphasize the fact that farm equipment expenditures were comparatively low, and that we have now come to the time when considerable new equipment must be purchased. It goes without saying with the price of farm labor where it is that farm machinery is needed to-day as never before."

Population and Food A population of 200,000,000 in this country will demand a 35 per cent decrease in consumption and a 35 per cent increase in production, according to Ernest P. Goodrich of the Regional Plan of New York and Its Environs, who was a speaker April 23 at the final session of the International City and Regional Planning Conference at New York. The acreage available now, he said, taken in conjunction with the figures of a survey made by the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics, will yield enough for a population of 150,000,000, but that population will call for either less consumption or more production. Assuming that foodstuff importation rates were maintained, a population of 150,000,000 would demand that each purchaser use 27 per cent less and that each acre yield 27 per cent more. "Extended studies of the laws of population," he told the plannings experts, "have led to the conclusion that few of the large cities of the United States will more than double in population within the next century. The world's potential food supply, and more specifically that of the United States, will not permit much more than double the present population. In order to gather such greater food supply relatively more human labor will be required so that there will be indeed a back-to-the farm movement or else the city population will go hungry. If a population of 200,000,000 is attained,

96,000,000 will be required to produce the Nation's foodstuffs.

"The larger cities," he continued, "will not be likely to grow proportionately as much as the smaller ones, and no one of them, including the New York region, is thus likely to increase more than 50 per cent. This is also indicated through a study of the history of shipping. While the Port of New York has steadily maintained its prestige as the major port of the country, it has decreased relatively in importance through the increased tonnage of the other ports. This is obviously natural and likely to increase, particularly in the light of the fact that foodstuffs have heretofore constituted a large portion of the exports of this country and such foodstuffs are likely to be of continually diminishing importance and quantity as the population of the country grows and the consumption increases. Not alone will manufacturing decrease in New York, but the same will also be the case with reference to water commerce." (N.Y. Times, Apr. 24.)

Production Plans

An editorial in The Idaho Farmer for April 16 says: "The warning issued by Secretary Jardine of the Department of Agriculture that general expansion of production on the part of farmers would not be to their advantage is auspicious. It is in direct contrast to the advice of the department a few years ago, when increased production was generally looked upon as the surest means of increasing income. The necessities arising out of the war resulted not only in advice on the part of the department to increase production, but in the establishment of a general habit among the farmers of producing more and more, a habit that has been hard to break. The depression into which agriculture fell was not due alone to overproduction, but unquestionably this contributed heavily to the general unhappy result. Even now, the surplus in some lines is just disappearing after several years of low prices. Production can never be controlled successfully by definite agreement among the farmers, but close watch of conditions and more widespread recognition of the fact that the old law of supply and demand is the most nearly inexorable of all agencies influencing general price levels will inevitably tend toward regulation of production. But it is not sufficient that the Department of Agriculture warn against overproduction. A greater opportunity lies in the working out of a plan whereby the farmers may be well informed as to the probable supply and the probable demand for the various crops which they may produce. True, this service is being rendered with a fair degree of efficiency now in the department's statistical work, but every effort to make the service more comprehensive and more readily available to every farmer should be made. This being done, the farmers owe a duty to the department and to themselves, namely, the making of a conscientious effort to apply the information secured with a view to producing just the necessary amounts of the respective crops or livestock products to supply the demand at reasonable prices to both producer and consumer."

State Taxes for Farmers

An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer for April 11 says: "One often hears it said that farmers pay no State taxes. That is no longer true, however the case may have been at one time. Farmers who buy gasoline, coal (anthracite), or who leave an estate, pay State taxes. These, in the aggregate, make a great deal of money going into the State treasury in the course of a year. But without counting these taxes it is time to

quit ringing in that old saw about the farmer's State taxes whenever the question of increasing the State's revenues is up for consideration. It was a far sighted move on the part of the politicians and manufacturers to put a four mill tax on corporations for State purposes and relieve them of local taxes. This, in the beginning, was for the same purpose that a high protective tariff was instituted -- to encourage the development of manufacturing and transportation industries. But time has wrought many changes. The State government is no longer the isolated institution it was fifty years ago, but it has reached out and is intimately connected with many local activities. In other words, the State has become one big community. Because of this, and because the industries no longer need infant coddling, it is time to place equal taxes on every dollar of wealth in the State."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Food Products

Apr. 24: Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes sold to jobbers at $5.75 to $6.25 per barrel in city markets; $4 f.o.b. Hastings. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, steady in New York but lower elsewhere, closing at a range of $4.50 to $5.50 per six-basket carrier, original pack. South Carolina cabbage generally weaker at $1.25 to $1.75 per barrel crate. Texas yellow Bermuda onions, commercial pack, stronger at $1.75 to $2.15 per crate in leading markets; $1.50 f.o.b. Laredo. North Carolina strawberries declined sharply to 20 to 33¢ quart basis and $8.25 to $9.25 per 32-qt.crate in eastern markets; $4.25 to $5.15 cash to growers at Chadbourn.

Grain prices quoted April 24: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.46 1/2 to $1.77 1/2. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.84 to $1.88; Kansas City $1.60 to $1.70. No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.57 to $1.58; Kansas City $1.50 to $1.60. No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.04; Minneapolis 98 to $1.00. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.10 1/2 to $1.11 1/2; Kansas City $1.06 to $1.08. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.04 1/2 to $1.07 1/2; Minneapolis $1.01 to $1.03. No. 2 white corn St. Louis $1.10; Kansas City $1.06 to $1.07; No. 4 white corn Chicago $1.01 1/2. No. 3 white oats Chicago 42 to 43¢; Minneapolis 39 1/4 to 39 3/4¢; St. Louis 44 to 44 1/2¢; No. 2 white oats Kansas City 46¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 46¢; Chicago 44 3/4¢; Philadelphia 46 1/2¢; Boston 46 1/2¢.

Chicago hog prices closed at $12.30 for the top and $12 to $12.25 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $10.85; butcher cows and heifers $4.50 to $10.75; feeder steers $5.75 to $8.75; light and medium weight veal calves $6.75 to $10.50; fat lambs $13 to $15; feeding lambs $13 to $14.25; yearlings $8.75 to $11.50; fat ewes $5.75 to $8.75.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 8 points, closing at 24.65¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 8 points, closing at 24.24¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 24	Apr. 23	Apr.24,1924
20 Industrials	119.74	120.82	90.44
20 R.R. stocks	95.26	95.52	81.13

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 25)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 23 Section 1 April 27, 1925

FARM WOMEN ORGANIZATION Organization of the Federated Farm Women of America was completed in Washington April 25 after the delegates had been received by President Coolidge and Secretary Jardine. The purpose of the organization, as set forth in the tentative draft of the constitution, is to "reestablish the peace, happiness and prosperity of the farm homes; to enlist as members groups, associations or individuals in a national organization which shall be strictly nonpolitical and essentially educational and economic in character." (Press,Apr.26)

REINDEER MEAT A New York dispatch to the press of April 26 says: "Alaska has its eye on the gradual falling off in American beef production, and aspires to develop an equivalent of the once famous Texas steer in its own Arctic reindeer. Charles De Witt Brower, a New Yorker who has lived 41 years in Alaska, told a gathering at New York that that city was already taking 150,000 pounds of reindeer beef a year, and predicted by the end of 1925 it would consume 375,000 pounds. What Mr. Brower called a definitely established beef industry in the North rested, he said, upon herds of 300,000 beef-bred reindeer which fatten in a great grass triangle as large as Texas, whose apex is Point Barrow, 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle. By 1940 he expected 4,000,000 head. ..."

FLOUR MARKET Fluctuations in the flour market in the week have occurred so rapidly that the trade was unwilling to buy, leaving the market almost at a standstill. Most of the dealers here have a sufficient quantity of flour coming to last for the next thirty to sixty days and are satisfied to wait until the uncertainty has ended before acquiring futher lots. Quiet ruled in the export market. Exporters appeared to be anxious to move their present holdings in order to figure on future stocks. (Phila. Ledger, Apr. 27.)

BALTIMORE RYE FOR RUSSIA A Baltimore dispatch to the press of April 27 states that the movement of grain from Baltimore to Russia has set in in earnest. Last week six vessels cleared with full cargoes of rye, totaling 1,415,953 bushels. Two were bound for Leningrad, two for Novovorsisk and two for Black Sea ports. All the ships were foreign.

TOWN PLANNING HEAD CHOSEN A New York dispatch to the press of April 26 states that Ebenezer Howard of London, father of the "Garden City" movement, April 25 was re-elected president of the International Federation for Town and County Planning and Garden Cities in the concluding session of the International City and Regional Planning Conference. The conference decided to hold its meeting in 1928 at Vienna. The American group in the federation elected John Nolen, city planner of Cambridge, Mass., president.

Section 2

Boxwood Shrubbery An editorial in The New York Times of April 25 says: "From Brooklyn comes the news that a poison gas is being developed with which to kill the insect parasites that threaten the boxwood shrubs. At the same time we read that one single firm of landscape gardeners has purchased more than a million dollars of box during the last decade, and that single specimens have been sold for as much as $10,000. Old plantations in the South have been stripped of the beautiful bushes that were the glory of gardens in the days 'before the war.' These are much in demand on the big estates on Long Island and elsewhere about New York, Boston and Philadelphia. As the shrub grows slowly and is hard to transplant, the supply is necessarily limited. Importation from Europe has now been stopped by the Government in its warfare on alien insects, so that England, Italy and France, whence came many fine specimens, no longer send us boxwood. ... Nothing gives a garden such an air of old-fashioned stateliness as well-matured box trees. ... One of the finest stands in America is still to be found at Gunston Hall, the old home of George Mason, statesman of Virginia and friend of Washington and John Marshall, whose garden, planted in his lifetime, is almost overwhelmed by the box trees. ..."

Grain Futures Tax An editorial in The Price Current-Grain Reporter for April 22 says: "Word comes from Springfield, Ill., that the State Senate is expected to adopt the bill introduced by Senator Kessinger, which provides a tax of one-thirty-second of a cent for each bushel of grain sold for future delivery, exempting, however, farmers who sell grain they have grown. We want to register a very emphatic protest against the measure, and for a number of reasons. In the first place, it is a sales tax, and as we see it, there is no more reason for a sales tax on grain for future delivery than on a suit of clothes, a plow, a horse, or a farm. In the second place future sales are simply an inexpensive form of insurance, enabling the man who buys the grain to always pay the grower the market price, and if a tax is levied upon that insurance, the seller of the grain is sure to be the one who will have it to pay. In the next place, in exempting the farmer, class legislation is made of it, and there is no logical place in America for class legislation; and finally, the load of taxation upon the people of Illinois is already too burdensome and plans for reducing it and for lessening the number of people who are 'feeding at the public crib,' are certainly more in order than any which would increase the load and add to the already excessive army of State employees. The idea of turning the money thus raised over to the public school fund is of course only a scheme to win approval for the measure, but it is a scheme which may lead to its passage, unless the farmers and business men get busy, and at once. As to the constitutionality of the measure, that we may well leave to the courts, although we seriously question it, especially in so far as any attempt may be made to enforce it on orders coming from points outside of Illinois, but if it should be found constitutional and if traders find it impossible or inexpedient to pass the tax on to others, the logical outcome would be to divert such trades from Illinois exchanges to those in other States."

Grain Prices An editorial in Modern Farming for April 15 says: "The downward plunge of wheat and corn prices within past weeks but emphasizes the fact that the only reliable trait of a speculative market is its

unreliability. Many operators were caught, were forced over the brink of ruin, and have landed at the pit's bottom sadder men, but perhaps no wiser than they were before the crash came. The strangest and most characteristic attribute of speculative psychology is that experience can make no dent in it. The man who fights a circular saw will, if he survive, refrain from such practices in future; the man who tries the temper of a Jersey bull, the flavor of moonshine liquor, or the speed of his car at grade crossings, will more carefully conserve whatever is left of him after the event. But financial wrecks seem to leave the wreckee with an even softer brain. The subject is worth consideration by southern farmers as well as by northern brokers. It is not only on 'the street' that men attempt to outguess the market. A huge percentage of our farmers try the same game in a less direct way every year by planting to 'make a killing' instead of by plan, as they should."

Hog Marketing The Price Current-Grain Reporter for April 22 says: "In the current number of a western farm paper which carries as its motto, 'Good farming, clear thinking, right living, a weekly journal for thinking farmers,' we find an editorial strongly recommending to the farmers, the establishment of a 'lot of little packing plants, after the style of the Danish, everywhere over the Corn Belt.' Continuing its praise of the scheme, the article says, 'One thing which makes these Danish packing plants successful is that before the plant is built they get a thousand farmers to agree that they will sell all of their hogs to the plant for a period of twenty years. If they sell their hogs elsewhere, they are to pay a fine of $2.50 for each hog.' What a fine example of 'clear thinking' this editorial is! Just think of it! For twenty long years they are tied up to one little market, with its relatively high overhead, its more difficult problems of finance, of continuous operation, and of the disposal of its finished product. Clear thinking indeed! Is it any wonder the farmers resent being given so much advice?"

Lowden on Farm Economics An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 25 says:"If we are to accept Governor Lowden's view the farmer is sui generis not only in being the sole economic sufferer in an otherwise prosperous Nation but in being subjected to ruthless economic laws from whose malevolent influence other producers are withdrawn. 'Something is wrong with our methods of marketing when the aggregate value of a larger crop of a prime necessity is smaller than the value of a smaller crop. ... To say, therefore, that 12,400,000 bales of cotton are worth more than 13,000,000 bales is to condemn a system of marketing which so measures value.' The sole answer to this is to ask Governor Lowden whether he has ever imagined the possibility that larger quantities of cotton goods may be worth in certain years less than smaller quantities of similar goods in other years? Has he weighed the chances for similar discrepancies between value and volume in the case of innumerable other classes of manufactured goods? To this argument Governor Lowden would reply that 'In practice, in every other industry (i.e., outside agriculture), the producer in the first instance makes the price at which he will sell his product. He usually arrives at this price by computing the cost of production, and adds what he considers a reasonable profit.' Delightful, if true, Governor Lowden at any rate seems to think that large corporations and organized associations by considering together are able to adjust supply to demand and always be sure of these 'reasonable profits.' The United

States Government appears to think with Mr. Lowden, and expresses its conviction by invoking the courts and the law to repress producing malefactors who confer together with the intention to adjust their supplies to a profitable demand."

Packers' Case 1 The Price Current-Grain Reporter for April 22 says: "A few years ago, the packers were prohibited from handling other lines in connection with their packing business. Why, no one has ever been able to find out definitely. There is no line of business that operates on so small a margin of profit as the packers. They found that other products could be marketed on a narrow margin by their salesmen and that the economy could be passed on to the consumer. Economy of distribution seems to be what is being strived for and yet in this case, the very thing that was being accomplished was prohibited. The California Raisin Growers organization which has developed a successful selling policy and agency finds that it can handle economically other products than raisins and is going to sell peaches and figs for other organizations. This is perfectly right and logical and there is no good reason why this economy should not be effected. The point is, if it is perfectly right for the California Raisin Growers organization to do this, why isn't it the right thing for the packers? Economy in distribution of food products seems to be the goal that all are striving for and when successful concerns can accomplish this, they should not be denied the privilege."

2 An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 25 says: "The packers' consent decree has been suspended by a decision of the District Supreme Court, but it is altogether unlikely that either the Government or the wholesale grocers' associations will permit the decision to stand without an appeal. Technically the suspension of the decree has been allowed in the interests of the contracts between the California Cooperative Canneries and Armour & Co., but actually the suspension involves much more than this particular contract between Armour and a canning company alleged to be intimately connected with the former. Throughout the history of the packers' consent decree, the conflicts that led up to it, and the contests that have succeeded it, the merits of the controversy on its purely economic side have been obscured by political prejudices, personal bias and legal technicalities. Ignoring its legal aspects, there are many economic reasons for welcoming the present decision. It is much to be hoped, in any case, that the whole, long drawn out controversy which has resolved itself into a struggle between opposed groups of distributers with equally selfish interests to serve will be pushed to a speedy conclusion."

South American Trade The Wall Street Journal of April 25 says: "Dr. Julius Kline's article in Foreign Affairs on the development of our trade with South America may be commended to those who realize that for this country the balance wheel of stabilized prosperity lies in an assured margin of foreign trade. Doctor Kline sees that the economically new lands of Latin America are to play a leading part in coming trade expansion, acting under the momentum of the Dawes plan, the restoration of a business government in Great Britain, the rehabilitation of Italy and broad recovery elsewhere. Latin America must not be left to the concession hunter, whose view of the future is often as unintelligent as that of

those lumber kings who destroyed our forests and left nothing but the denuded area for those who came after them. South America is a great field for permanent investment. Director General L. S. Rowe of the Pan American Union brought out some of the facts at India House the other day. Doctor Kline shows how South America is bound to Europe by heavy loans for development purposes. Sentimentally some trade may 'follow the flag,' but practically trade follows the loan. Great Britain is putting something like $250,000,000 a year into South America. Its $3,000,000,000 invested in Argentina alone equals all that the United States has put into the entire southern continent. As Doctor Kline says, England has regained her pre-war leadership in Argentina and Brazil and even Germany is coming back. The service of these loans is met by exports of raw materials, offset by imports of manufactured goods. Taken as a whole, the South American republics have passed through what might be called the political diseases of childhood, the stage of exploitation and revolution. Their modern dangers are those of popular government none too well understood, but they all show progress and are fairly on the road to prosperity. The increase in their purchasing power is shown by their steadily expanding imports of finished products. A great chemist told us that dirt is only matter in the wrong place, and there can be no such thing as overporduction, which merely means an imperfect coordination of markets and transportation. Europe takes more than half of our exports, but we must develop markets for the other half. There is plenty of market in South America if we go the right way about securing it. It is certain that we are no longer in a position to depend upon home consumption alone. With abundance of free capital now is the time to develop foreign consumption."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in The World's Work for May says: "The high cost of the Federal Government now and a natural reaction against the dictatorial powers necessarily used by it during the war has led to a very marked desire for the curtailment of Federal functions, or, to put it another way, for a return to the doctrine of States' rights. The results of the Eighteenth Amendment also have strengthened the feeling for local option or local self-government. The inevitable tendencies of a centralized bureaucracy feed this feeling. One of the best examples of these tendencies of a bureaucracy is the work of the Federal Horticultural Board. This board was created by an act of Congress in 1912. It is made up of employees of the Department of Agriculture, chiefly entomologists. Its function was to issue quarantine regulations against such foreign plants as brought into this country diseases and insects which might harm American agriculture or horticulture. This is an entirely proper policy -- a necessary one. The board began its operations with modesty and common sense. But its enthusiasm for its functions grew and continued to grow until finally it issued a blanket order excluding from the United States all plant material from any source whatsoever, with only such exceptions as the board might consider essential for propagation or to meet necessities in horticulture, floriculture, or forestry. The board made the blanket order. It also makes the exceptions. There is no appeal from its decisions. It is judge, jury, and high executioner, all in one. It has to prove to no one that its quarantines are necessary. It has

wrecked many businesses, and changed or obliterated the currents of trade by its fiat decrees. The Horticultural Board has set up a quarantine that has become an embargo. The branches of the horticultural trade that depended on foreign supplies are practically wiped out of existence. It is very doubtful if the policy of the board is wide from a scientific point of view, that is, whether or not such drastic measures are at all necessary. It is certain that the arbitrary ruling of a bureaucratic commission sits ill upon American susceptibilities. The new Secretary of Agriculture has an opportunity to dispel the animosity which his subordinates have been arousing either by providing some method of appeal from the Horticultural Board which will relieve the horticultural business from its violent orders or by convincing the industry of their wisdom and fairness in a way that it is not at all convinced now."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

For the week ended April 25: Markets for old potatoes closed dull and weak, while new stock featured a general decline. Sacked Round Whites from New York sold to jobbers at $1 to $1.15 per 100 pounds in eastern cities and the same stock from Wisconsin brought 65¢ to 75¢ on the Chicago carlot market. Texas yellow Bermuda onions tend higher at $1.75 to $2.25 per crate in consuming centers; stronger at $1.60 to $1.65 f.o.b. Laredo. Cabbage held fairly steady in Chicago, with a lower trend elsewhere. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, unsettled ranging $4 to $5.50 per original six-basket carrier, top of $6 in Cincinnati. North Carolina strawberries weakened in eastern cities at 25¢ to 28¢ quart basis and $6.25 to $7.50 per 32-quart crate; $4.50 to $6.25 per crate cash to growers at North Carolina points.

In eastern wholesale fresh meat markets beef is 50¢ to $1 lower, veal and pork loins weak to $2 lower; lamb $1 to $2 higher and mutton firm to $1 up.

April 25 prices good grade meats: Beef $15 to $16.50; veal $12 to $17; lamb $22 to $25; mutton $16 to $17; light pork loins $24 to $29; heavy loins $18 to $22.

Butter markets steady to firm during the week. Recent advances in prices fairly well sustained except for fear of seasonal slump which prevented real active buying. Statistically markets are strong. Foreign markets weaker, but not to the point of making imports probable. Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 46¢; Chicago 44¢; Philadelphia 46 1/2¢; Boston 46 1/2¢.

Cheese markets continue slow on fresh goods. Further price declines of 1/2 to 1¢ on Wisconsin Boards at close of week. Production outlook shows improvement. Cured cheese firm. Wholesale prices on Wisconsin primary markets April 24: Single Daisies 22¢; Longhorns 22¢; Square Prints 22¢.

Grain market easier after midweek advances. Wheat future slightly higher than week ago, sagging from week's high point on weaker foreign markets and beneficial rains in wheat belt. Corn futures down about 2 to 3 cents with draggy market for cash corn and approach of May deliveries.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 31 points during the week, closing at 24.69¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 45 points, closing at 24.20¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

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DAILY DIGEST

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Vol.XVII, No. 24 Section 1 April 28, 1925

ENGINEERS SEEK AID IN AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS The Secretary of Agriculture was asked to assist the American Association of Engineers in their studies of agricultural problems by a delegation of engineers of the association who called upon him yesterday, according to the press to-day. F. H. Newell, chairman of the Federal advisory committee of the association, and former chief of the United States Reclamation Service, was spokesman for the delegation. In addressing the Secretary, Mr. Newell said: "The engineers are beginning to appreciate as never before that their usefulness is dependent upon national prosperity, and that this rests largely upon the success of the farmer. We are among the first to feel the effects of any maladjustment." The delegation included Morris Bien, president of the association; A. B. McDaniel, its local representative, and H. N. Savage, of California, who returned recently from a trip around the world studying reclamation works. The association comprises 12,000 members. Its largest enrollment represents engineers in the middle and far-western sections of the United States.

DEPARTMENT SCIENTISTS ON BOLL WEEVIL MENACE The Washington Post to-day, reporting the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences at Washington yesterday, says: "How research into the 'odorous constituents of the cotton plant' has led to discoveries which bid fair to revolutionize the cotton-growing industry by reducing the boll weevil menace to a minimum was described. The paper was the joint work of Frederick B. Power and Victor K. Chesnut, of the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture, and was given by Doctor Power. Research has shown, it was pointed out, that the attraction which draws the boll weevil to the cotton plant to destroy crops is a particular odor and not a color. By distillation and chemical treatment of masses of cotton foliage the scientists found that the two predominating basic substances in the distillate are ammonia and trimethylamine, both of which have very perceptible odors and which appear to be instinctive attractions to the destroying weevil. Both substances also were found in the emanations from the living plant and they have been identified in the dew collected from the foliage. It has been recorded, Doctor Power said, that so small an amount of trimethylamine as .0000005 of a grain can be distinctly detected by its odor. Scientists are looking forward to the production of trimethylamine from some substance other than cotton so that it may effectively be used as a 'bait' to lure the weevil into a trap, such as into ditches from which he can not escape or into water. Experiments using the odor as a lure 'tend to prove the effectiveness,' scientists say. While the entire theory is still in an unproved stage, it was pointed out, scientists are hopeful of working out a plan to protect the cotton growers from their worst enemy."

ICE CREAM MERGER A New Haven, Conn., dispatch to the press of April 28 states that definite plans were announced April 27 for the largest consolidation of ice cream companies of the East ever attempted. The New Haven Dairy Company, the Tait Brothers Company, the Coon Ice Cream Company and the Dolbey Bompany have agreed tentatively upon details of the new organization. The formation of a new company, known as the Eastern Dairies, is contemplated, which will acquire the stock properties of the others.

Section 2

Agricultural Prices

The Wall Street Journal for April 27 says: "In his speech before the Newspaper Publishers' Association ex-Governor Lowden declared that the stabilization of agricultural prices was the greatest domestic problem now before the American people. He further added that a graph of pig iron prices over a certain period would be represented by a straight line while one of pigs would fluctuate in a zig zag course. His reason for this difference was the organization of the steel industry and the lack of it in agriculture. Not everyone will be willing to accept Governor Lowden's statement that farm prices form the greatest problem before the people, even though they recognize the importance of the industry. Neither would they attribute the fluctuation in prices of farm commodities entirely to the lack of organization. Farm prices, like all others, are subject to the workings of economic laws in world markets which no organization can permanently control. These laws have put the average prices of that unorganized business above the general price level. The Bureau of Labor's wholesale price index for March is 161.0 and for farm products 161.3. Those who are in the organized iron and steel industry still find that conditions are like true love, which never runs smoothly. A composite index of 14 of the leading iron and steel prices averaged daily over a course of years is as follows per ton: 1923, $44.56: 1922, $37.86; 1921, $40.74; 1920, $65.59; 1919, $50.32. In the past week many steel products are down $2 a ton from the prices of a week ago. In comparison this would be equal to a drop of 70 cents a hundred in the price of hogs. The pig iron graph, therefore, is far from straight. Neither pigs nor pig iron can ever run for any length of time in a straight line. The line for pig prices, however, is and always has been unnecessarily curved. The reason for it is found in the actions of the farmers themselves. Some months ago a study of hog production and prices was published in these columns. It showed that over a course of years both production and prices run in cycles, with about two years between the peaks and the depressions. Always the farmer was about a year behind the market. When hogs are abundant and prices low the farmers begin to taper off their production and in less than two years there is a scarcity. Prices respond to the scarcity and begin to mount -- and then the farmers increase production. They are looking at the price of to-day but producing for a market considerably in the future. For this reason they are always behind and a graph shows violent ups and downs. A remedy for this can only be brought about by the farmers themselves. Governor Lowden offers no real remedy."

Cotton

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 25 says: "Reports from Washington state that a movement is once more on foot to develop a monthly statistical service, designed to show production, stocks and possibly sales of representative groups of cotton textile manufacturers. The project is one that has frequently been discussed both officially and unofficially during recent years; but it has been difficult to secure support from the representatives of organized textile groups, partly for the reason that -- as in the case of other industries -- the fear of Government intervention has been a deterrent, and partly because there has been a disposition in some quarters to decry the value of such a service to individual manufacturers. Given the vast mass of data relating to raw cotton, cotton consumption, active spindles, etc., it may appear to many people that the cotton industry is sufficiently covered

by various sorts of statistical services, but a little reflection makes it clear that such is not the case. Information in regard to cotton piece goods, for instance, is conspicuously scanty, and estimates of mill activity, both for yarn and cloth, are still the merest guesses. Figures for active spindles, as is well known, throw practically no light upon mill activity, while cotton consumption is similarly unreliable, especially in view of the many varieties of industrial demand represented thereby. A special investigation by the Tariff Commission into the costs of production of manufacturers, efficient and inefficient, with intention to compare them with varying and generally unascertainable similar costs in other countries would give no adequate idea of the competitive status of the industry. Neither do financial statistics dealing with dividends taken by themselves afford reliable criteria of prosperity or its converse. Changes in capitalization, surplus and previous dividend declarations need to be carefully studied over a long period of years before a judgment can be registered. Similarly losses and gains in any one year have to be considered in relation to earnings averaged over a period of time. The conclusion is that it is impossible to obtain a true picture of the state of the cotton textile industry, or of any other industry for that matter, unless the material facts relating to productive activity are made accessible at regular and frequent intervals."

Cotton Marketing American Wool and Cotton Reporter for April 23 says: "As to cooperative marketing: Our association three years ago at its Washington convention, passed a resolution indorsing it. Our latest official position on the subject is embodied in the following resolution: Cooperative and orderly marketing of cotton a stabilizing influence on the dry goods market: Whereas, the old method of financing and marketing the cotton crop has permitted an undue pressure on the market at the beginning of the season, and has encouraged speculation at various stages later in the season, and Whereas, such conditions tend toward violent fluctuations in prices of the staple, with attendant hesitation and uncertainty in the dry goods market, and Whereas, these evils both in the cotton market and the cotton goods market can only be corrected by a regular and uniform distribution of the cotton crop throughout the year, therefore, be it Resolved, that the American Cotton Manufacturers Association in convention assembled, this the 11th day of April, 1925, indorses the cooperative plan for marketing, to the end that an adequate and uniform supply of cotton may be secured for the manufacturer, and at as high a price for the producer as the natural and unrestricted law of supply and demand will permit. ... And, we believe in cotton exchanges, and can not conceive how modern business could be carried on without them; they are so continually in the limelight that I do not fear what may occasionally seem to us to be arbitrary and autocratic in their methods; they must be responsive to real service in order to live in this day and generation, and they know it. I wonder if we all yet realize the wonderful and nation-wide effect on business, cotton exchange practices in particular, of the radio. Every night, full crop data and price fluctuations are broadcast, and are just as well known to the farmer, the country merchant, and the manufacturer, as to the large operator. In fact, this new factor is so patent that I suspect that it is yet more of a disturbing influence on a sensitive market than a stabilizing one -- but I feel

sure that its power to broadcast knowledge will soon become the greatest element in steadying market conditions. In conclusion, the production of cotton -- quantity and quality -- challenges the attention of manufacturers. We are already on record for prices as stable and as high as the law of supply and demand will permit. We also go further, and say that we are for prices as high as the consumer can and is willing to pay. Some short-sighted people preach restricting production to the point of an actual shortage of supply, believing that the increased demand will bring higher prices; and so it will, but it will also automatically curtail consumption, until prices drop again; and worse yet, it will give an added impulse to the growing of cotton elsewhere. Many Americans believe that the South will always have what they are pleased to call a monopoly of cotton. I believe that to be a mistake. Other countries can and will grow cotton when it is made a sufficient inducement for them to do so. Last year, Russia consumed over a half million bales of cotton, buying only 212 bales of American cotton! They raised it all, and plan to raise more this year. They are importing more cotton this year, but clearly show a disposition to raise their own cotton. ..."

Farm Taxation H. J. Waters, writing in the Weekly Kansas City Star for April 22, says: "A study recently completed by the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation showed the valuation of Missouri farm property for the purpose of taxation had been increased 302 per cent in the same period that railroad property had been advanced 113 per cent. These findings were the result of numerous hearings and detailed studies of assessors' returns in most of the counties of the State. In many instances the assessed value then of farms was greater than the farms brought when sold under the hammer, the records showed. At the same time the Missouri farm organization was making this study the Government through the Federal Department of Agriculture was studying the farmer's tax burden as compared with those of other businesses in eastern States. The Government authorities came to the same conclusion as the Missouri authorities, namely, that the farmer is paying more than his share of taxes. This is true according to these studies when measured either by the value of the property when sold or by the returns from that property. If, as the Government points out, a uniform tax of 2 per cent were laid on all classes of property in a typical community approximately 25 per cent of the income from banks would be required to pay the tax; 42 per cent of the income from rented property in town would be needed to pay the tax and 53 per cent of the income from farm lands. It required, according to the Government survey, almost one-third of all the net rents of farms in surveyed communities to pay the property taxes levied on farm property and 28.5 per cent on the real estate in county seats of the same counties in which rural tax records were taken. The difference between 33 and 28.5 per cent is not large but it should be borne in mind that the residents of county seat towns got much more out of their Government at a cost of 28.5 per cent of the returns from their property than did the residents of the open country out of 33 per cent of the net returns from their lands. ... But aside from the question of reducing taxes there is that other important question, that of keeping the tax burden equitably distributed; of making each group and each class of property bear its just proportion of the total load. Taxes get out of line just as do prices or freight rates or standards of spending. The moment we unduly tax an industry or the

results of the efforts of an individual we depress business or throttle enterprise. The outcome of the studies made by the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation is that assessments on many farms in that State were reduced this year. Similar results were made in Illinois through the activities of the Illinois Agricultural Association. These are splendid examples of ways in which farm organizations can help agriculture in other ways than in selling and buying. Important as are better methods of marketing they are only part of the farmer's need of organization, of some compact, some well officered representative to look after his interests every day in the year. The farmer who consents to profit by the labors of such organization without paying his share of the cost of its maintenance and without giving it his moral support is reaping where he has not sown and enjoying the fruits of his neighbor's toil."

Fertilizer in Cotton States

The press of April 27 states that 10 per cent more fertilizer will probably be used in the Cotton Belt this year than was the case last year, according to information received in Washington from some of the State Commissioners of Agriculture in that section. Earlier in the season it was reported that the cotton farmers were exceptionally slow in providing themselves with fertilizer and the fear was expressed that unless they got busy and placed their orders pretty soon they might find that a rush for supplies later on would have the effect of materially increasing the price.

Production and Marketing Stability

The National Wool Grower for April says: "With all the good things that have been undertaken in order to stabilize markets for livestock and crops, there is still need for removing some of the factors that interfere with reasonable safety and security in production. The craze for legislation as a cure for all the producer's ills whether real or fancied and temporary, fortunately is passing. Secretary Jardine advocates only such legislation as really is needed to give the farmer and stockman a chance to help himself and to keep the business of producing from the soil so remunerative and attractive as will insure an agricultural industry so progressive and stable as to serve the interests and destiny of the whole Nation. Present methods and lack of methods in the utilization of lands owned by the Government are serious elements that make for instability in agricultural production in at least eleven States -- those in which the public domain and the national forests are located. Homesteading upon public domain has also gone far beyond the extent of sound business and true interest of the homesteaders themselves. Farming can or should never be attempted upon practically all the open lands. Even at this late day, it would be beneficial for the Federal Government to recognize the facts and provide some legal basis for the utilization and security in use of these lands by those who are entitled to them or able to use them in the service of the country. Grazing of livestock on the national forests has been administered for nineteen years under a permit system with no recognized or defined legal status. There have been well grounded differences of opinion as to the policy of the Forest Service in reducing the herds and flocks of older permittees to make for new comers. In many cases this reduction has gone farther than is consistent with good business practice based on the true economic welfare, and therefore social welfare, of the sections concerned. So long as forest grazing permits are held by the Government officers to be privileges and awarded as 'favors' just so long will there be serious

instability in the productive enterprises of the 36,000 families owning 33 per cent of the sheep and 20 per cent of the cattle in the forest States. And business methods and mortality among these insecure producers is a great cause of instability in the business of those who own their grass lands but must buy and sell in the markets where a real part of the fluctuations are attributable to the lack of security and stability in the affairs of owners of the 33 per cent of sheep and 20 per cent of cattle."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 27: Chicago hog prices closed at $12 for the top and $11.60 to $11.90 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $10.85; butcher cows and heifers $4.50 to $10.75; feeder steers $5.75 to $8.75; light and medium weight veal calves $6.75 to $10.50; fat lambs $13.25 to $15.35; feeding lambs $13 to $14.25; yearlings $8.75 to $11.50 and fat ewes $5.75 to $8.75.

New York sacked Round White potatoes jobbed at $1 to $1.05 per 100 pounds in the East, while Wisconsin stock dropped to 70 to 80¢ on the Chicago carlot market. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, weakened slightly to $5 to $5.50 per original six-basket carrier in eastern cities while repacked stock sold stronger in Chicago at $7 to $7.50. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage sold about 25¢ lower at $1.25 to $1.75 per barrel crate. Texas yellow Bermuda onions 25¢ to 50¢ higher at $1.90 to $2.25 per crate in consuming centers, top of $2.50 in Boston; $1.50 to $1.55 f.o.b. North Carolina Klondikes and Missionarys 20¢ to 25¢ quart basis at $6 to $7.50 per 32-qt. crate in eastern cities.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 46¢; Chicago 44¢; Philadelphia 47¢; Boston 46 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted April 27: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.40 1/2 to $1.69 1/2. No. 2 red winter Chicago $1.66; St. Louis $1.78 to $1.82; Kansas City $1.61 to $1.65. No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.50; Kansas City $1.44 to $1.52. No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City 96 to 96 3/4¢; No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.00 to $1.02; Minneapolis 93 to 95¢. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.06 to $1.07; St. Louis $1.08; Kansas City $1.01 1/2 to $1.02 1/2. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.02 to $1.05; Minneapolis 96 to 98¢. No. 2 white corn Kansas City $1.01; No. 3 white corn Chicago $1.00. No. 2 white oats Kansas City 43¢; No. 3 white oats Chicago 38 1/2 to 42¢; Minneapolis 37 1/4 to 38¢; St. Louis 42 1/2 to 43¢.

Middling spot cotton in 9 designated spot markets declined 34 points closing at 24.35¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 38 points, closing at 23.82¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 27	Apr. 25	Apr. 26, 1924
20 Industrials	119.46	119.75	92.01
20 R.R. stocks	95.68	95.75	81.25

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 28.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol.XVII, No. 25 Section 1 April 29, 1925

BRITAIN RESTORES GOLD STANDARD A London dispatch to the press to-day states that Great Britain returned to the gold standard April 28, restored the McKenna customs taxes on imported luxuries and imposed some new protective duties, including levies on silks and hops. Simultaneously with the restoration of the gold standard, announced by Winston Churchill, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his first budget presented to the House of Commons, Australia and New Zealand took similar action. Canada is already on a gold basis, and the Union of South Africa has announced her intention of going on a gold basis on July 1, so that, as Mr. Churchill stated, the whole British Empire is now virtually on a pre-war footing in the value of its currency and the free export of gold and silver. Holland and the Dutch East Indies also returned to the gold standard yesterday, Mr. Churchill announced, and with the United States, Sweden, Germany, Austria and Hungary on the same basis, the majority of the big trading nations of the world have re-established their monetary standards.

The New York Times to-day comments as follows: "Chancellor Churchill's announcement that Great Britain would return to the gold standard was hailed with enthusiasm by Treasury experts and economists of the Department of Commerce yesterday as a splendid example of the stability of that Empire and also as indicating that world economic relations are gradually being adjusted. These officials believed that the Northern European countries would, as soon as possible, follow the lead of Great Britain and thus, by establishing international currency on a par basis, would help to do away with the fluctuations of foreign exchange."

LUMBERING AND AGRICULTURE A Chicago dispatch to the press of April 29 says: "Lumbering is agriculture, the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association was told Apr. 28 at its annual meeting. National forest week is the keynote of the meeting. The speakers were O. N. Bradfute, Xenia, O., president of the American Farm Bureau Federation and a member of President Coolidge's Agricultural Commission, and Raphael Zon, director of the Great Lakes Forestry Experiment Station, under the Department of Agriculture. A new epoch dawned, said Doctor Zon, when the public began to recognize that a forest was not a mine but a crop. This new epoch, according to Mr. Bradfute, is simply an auspicious revolution back to the condition of Colonial days, when the farmers were the lumbermen, cutting the timber and operating the sawmills."

AMERICAN FOREST WEEK An editorial in The New York Times of April 28 says: "There is significance in the fact that American Forest Week, which we are celebrating until May 3, was formerly known as Forest Protection Week.

Slight as is the difference in the title, the change implies a change in national sentiment. ... Protection implied non-destruction, and great emphasis was laid on fighting forest fires. To-day it is beginning to be realized that something further is needed. It is essential to look to the future, and to plan now to meet its needs. Hence the stressing of reforestation. This means not only replanting of cut-over areas and burned lands on a wholesale scale but also developing individual planting on farms and country places. This work is particularly important in driving home the lesson of the need of eliminating wood waste. ..."

Section 2

Canadian Rural Credits

The Grain Growers' Guide (Winnipeg) for April 22 says: "Eastern opposition to any measure of economic relief for the West is so common that it occasions no surprise to find Toronto financial journals condemning Doctor Tory's recommendations for rural credits. The Financial Post, of Toronto, thus ruminates: 'As for the farmers themselves, while we are in favor of anything that will work out to their ultimate interest, we can see in this proposal only an extension of the period of difficulty and a further postponement of a return to that sound basis upon which permanent success can be built. Agricultural, commercial and financial interests have taken losses, and the latter particularly are facing further losses, but nothing, we submit, is to be gained by postponing the issue by the aid of Government credit. For too long the economic adjustment in the West was delayed by testing out all sorts of legislative panaceas and financial experiments. Then came the realization that all these efforts were merely pulling on the boot-straps and were having no real effect. The great majority of the farmers turned a deaf ear to the alluring proposals of the radicals and got down to work. And the result is that the West is now working out its salvation in a satisfactory way. There are many indications of a return of more healthful economic conditions. The conviction of experienced bysiness men who have examined into western conditions is that the difficulties which are now being surmounted are the result of too much credit rather than too little. Farmers unconsciously are poor borrowers from the sound business standpoint. When money is readily available they are very much inclined to take it without considering whether they can make such use of it as to return a profit to themselves in addition to earning interest. During the period of agricultural prosperity the banks lent much too freely. Borrowers took the money available without realizing the responsibilities involved. The result has been that those who borrowed have lost, and the banks who made the loans have lost. And the wages of economic sin have not yet all been paid. Our conviction, in view of all the circumstances, is that the West can, and is working out its problems, and that the final solution will only be delayed by this new proposal for Government credits.' The Monetary Times, Toronto, comments as follows: 'The farmer's position has been greatly improved through higher prices; they have reduced their debts, their operations are profitable and they can pay current interest rates as well as other classes. Also money has become cheaper; there is more bank and mortgage money available than can be used, just at present at least. Also the results of provincial systems of rural credit appear more and more unfavorable as the years go by. The Monetary Times does not concur in plans to loan public money to special classes. It is the duty of our various governments, through their control of property rights, of trade, of tariffs and of currency, to keep the economic field fair to all with special favors to none.' These two financial authorities betray not only a lack of knowledge regarding conditions on the prairie, but an entire lack of sympathy with the farmers' needs. It is typical of the viewpoint which prevails too widely in the East and prevents the development of a united national spirit which is so much to be desired. Briefly and crudely these two authorities say that the western farmers should pay 'all the traffic will bear.' This has, in too great a measure, been the attitude towards this part of Canada for the past 25 years. The western farmers are not seeking more credit but a lower cost of credit. If they were able to secure their long and short-term credit

even at the prices paid by farmers in Eastern Canada, it would be a great advantage and relief. Eight and 9 per cent on long-term and 8 to 10 per cent on short-term credit is a cost which no eastern commercial institution could carry. Farmers are now only able to pay it by reducing their standard of living."

Cooperative Marketing 1

Sioux City Live Stock Record for April 24 says: "In the midst of all this talk -- and feeling -- about the return to a condition of normal prosperity, the crepe hanger is still with the country. And, for some unexplained reason, the band-wagoners in the crepe parade are largely found in the ranks of politicians who did not land. ... Now, it is not our purpose in discussing our national crepe brigade to attack cooperative marketing, or other coöperative movements of farmers, or cooperative efforts in other lines of endeavor. But to our way of thinking the word 'cooperative' is one of the most overworked words in the English language. No duo of words in our language has been used as much in late years as that of 'cooperative marketing.' What do these crepe hangers and political agitators mean by the term? ... Mr. Frank O. Lowden, for whom we once entertained high regard as a man fitted to be a leader of men, has apparently become thoroughly obsessed of 'cooperative marketing' as the one and only salvation of the farmer. What does he mean by the term? It has been advocated by some of the cooperation agitators that the farmer has a right to, and is capable of personally directing every move of his products, from field and feed lot to consumer. No sane man will deny that right. The farmer is endowed with the same capabilities as other men. But is he in position, and has he the information at hand that makes him competent to go from his feed lot, for instance, and become his own salesman on the market? There are two elements in marketing that the farmer, out there in his fields and feed lots, is not acquainted with and can not know except by constant contact -- and these two elements are men and markets. We know of no rule at any of the stockyards that prevents a farmer, or a cooperative company of farmers, from going on the markets and being their own salesmen. We do happen to remember that in a few instances State legislatures have enacted contract laws that will bind a farmer to sell his products through cooperative agencies, whether those agencies are manned by competent salesmen or not. But stockyards' rules do not attempt to put the farmer under any such contract. He can be his own salesman, or consign to one commission selling outfit, and if he don't like one he can consign to another -- and the rules of both stockyard companies and livestock exchanges protect him in this. Lowden --- does not fail to carry with his argements an insinuation that there is something wrong with present and long tried systems of marketing. Do Lowden and his associates in cooperative marketing agitation insinuate that cooperative agencies, manned with inexperienced managers and salesmen at larger salaries than experienced managers and salesmen [illegible] cost, are getting the farmer a square deal? We would not say that this is being done. But we do say that the arguments being handed out by many of the cooperative promoters convey the idea that the farmer, or the boy just out of college, is qualified to go to the markets and take up the duties of salesmen. ... Cooperative marketing that does not recognize that the term is a misnomer if it does not mean competent and trained men on the markets to operate in friendly harmony with the men down on the farm. The two elements must study each other's problems -- they must cooperate.

And that is the only logic of cooperative marketing. The worst bunk that is handed out by the political promoters of farmer interests is that which tells the farmer that he is qualified to be farmer, railroader, market expert, packer, distributor and banker. There is just as much intelligence on the farm as there is in the city, but being the whole thing is a job too big for the average human."

Cooperative Marketing 2 Arthur R. Marsh, writing in The Economic World for April 25 says: " ... Perhaps the widespread feeling of assurance in the business community that the most serious evils of the situation of the farmers have been to a large extent remedied in the manner just described affords an explanation of the impression made upon the public mind, at least in this vicinity, by an address delivered on Wednesday evening of this week by ex-Governor Frank O. Lowden, of Illinois, in New York ... Notwithstanding the recent increases in the prices of certain of the farmers' products, it still remains true, according to Mr. Lowden, that there is 'a great disparity between the prices of the things the farmer has to sell and the prices of the things he has to buy;' and he gives it as the unanimous opinion of the 'ablest farm economists' that there can be 'no permanent relief until this disparity is removed.' And if such relief is not afforded the process of decay which has already visibly affected American agriculture must be expected to extend until the direst consequences ensue. ... The solution of this dilemma at which Mr. Lowden ultimately arrives is a reconstitution of the marketing of farm products, with the present free competition of the markets, which moves prices in so irrational a manner, replaced by the firmly controlled activities of cooperative marketing associations of nation-wide scope, through which each product will be distributed to the consuming public, presumably upon a price basis that will cure the present disparity between agricultural prices and other prices. With such an arrangement, Mr. Lowden implies, we should no longer have the absurd spectacle of abundant crops having less money value than inadequate crops; nor would small surpluses of production, when they come for one or another reason, depress prices out of all proportion to the magnitude of the excess supply. Assured of equitable remuneration for his labors under all conditions of supply the farmer could set about producing his sixty bushels of corn to the acre or his brimming pail of milk without anxiety lest his own fine achievement result in less money in his pocket. That this is an engaging picture few would be disposed to deny. About the economic practicability of Mr. Lowden's program, however, perhaps some doubts may be entertained. The truth is that it is rarely possible in dealing with the conditions governing a great branch of production to take as the point of departure of our reasoning the ideal situation for all those engaged in such production and to seek solely to devise ways and means for the realization of that situation."

Declining Production An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 28 says: "'Pittsburgh Output of Steel Declining,' 'Cotton Mills Cut Down Operations,' 'Output Declines': Here are three 'heads' over stories in one day's grist of news. They are typical of a good many reports which have been coming to the attention of the public for some little time past. There can no longer be any doubt that the volume of production in many important lines is off from the peak and little question that in more than one case it is destined to go to still lower levels. Yet it is certainly

open to doubt whether these facts are to be interpreted as particularly discouraging. The truth is that there never has been any good reason to suppose that the factories of the country would be able to continue the rate of activity they attained in the late months of last year and the early months of this year. No evidence has existed at any time to lead careful students to suppose that consumptive demand either in this country or abroad was being stimulated to the degree necessary to absorb goods as fast as they were at one time being turned out. There was good reason for supposing that the rate of consumption would be moderately good for some time, and in this respect the situation has not very materially changed. It has always been a question whether the briefly stimulated purchasing of certain agricultural districts would remain at unusually high levels. Whether it would or not has all along been fairly widely recognized as dependent upon the size and salability of the crops of the current season. That is the situation as it exists to-day. So far as the crops are concerned nothing has happened, outside of the plight of certain districts of the winter wheat belt and possibly to some extent in the cotton belt of Texas, which in any great degree lessens the hope for normal output on the part of the farmers of the Nation. What declining production does indicate and what it ought to reveal to us all is the fact that the outlook from the longer time point of view has never been and is not now particularly encouraging. We are in possession of manufacturing plant capacity which is capable of producing much more than we are likely to consume, particularly so long as the prices of manufactured articles remain so high and farm products continue as a rule rather uninflated. Foreign markets are likewise hard at best to develop to the degree that we need to develop them. Very great and very permanent expansion of those markets so long as our costs and prices are so radically out of line with the purchasing power of the peoples of the world is almost out of the question. These are facts which have been obtaining for a good while past. For a time we were able to veil them from our eyes with dreams of good things to come from a rehabilitated Europe. It is now, however, once more clear to all that Europe is not to be made over in a day or even a year. These facts ought forcibly to be brought to our attention by the fact that our mills are being driven to curtail operations moderately for the lack of adequate markets."

Warehouses and Banking

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 28, says: "Secretary Jardine said at a recent conference on the administration of the Federal Warehouse act that inspections of licensed warehouses 'are just as important as examinations made by the national bank examiners under the National Banking act.' With due allowance for permissible exaggeration, the statement is deserving of attention. Federal licensing of warehoused agricultural products on an extensive scale under close and continuous Government supervision is assuredly one of the greatest possible aids to the development of sound banking practices. Probably the actual losses to banks through lending against warehouse certificates that do not adequately protect the lender against frauds, losses, duplications, etc., are not so great as might be imagined, given the opportunities afforded. But the very caution required by the slipshod methods that have prevailed in the issuance and handling of warehouse receipts points the need for a reform. Those who suffer from lack of protection are not primarily the banks but the borrowers themselves, especially smaller agriculturalists unable to present first rate security as a basis

for loans. A further development of the Federal licensing system, which has already made great strides, will consequently mean not only fewer losses to the banks but a better distribution of loans among small borrowers at lower rates of interest."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 28: Grain prices quoted April 28: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.45 to $1.73. No. 1 red winter St. Louis $1.85; No. 2 red winter Kansas City $1.62 to $1.67. No. 2 hard winter Kansas City $1.46 to $1.57; No. 2 hard winter Chicago $1.47 3/4. No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City 96¢ to $1; No. 3 mixed corn Minneapolis 97 to 99¢; No. 4 mixed corn Chicago 99 1/2 to $1.00 1/2. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.06 1/4 to $1.09; Kansas City $1.03 to $1.05. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.01 1/2 to $1.03 3/4; Minneapolis $1 to $1.02; St. Louis $1.09 to $1.10. No. 2 white corn Kansas City $1.01 to $1.02. No. 3 white oats Chicago 38 1/2 to 40 3/4¢; Minneapolis 37 5/8 to 38 5/8¢; St. Louis 44¢; No. 2 white oats Kansas City 44¢.

Chicago hog prices closed at $12 for the top and $11.60 to $11.90 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $9.40 to $10.60; butcher cows and heifers $4.50 to $10.65; feeder steers $5.75 to $8.75; light and medium weight veal calves $7 to $10.75; fat lambs $13.75 to $15.85; feeding lambs $13 to $14.50; yearlings $9 to $12; fat ewes $6 to $9.

Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes $5 to $6 per barrel, low as $4.50 in New York and $4 f.o.b. Hastings. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage 75¢ to $1.00 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper and $1.25 to $1.75 per barrel crate. Texas yellow Bermuda onions $2 to $2.25 per crate in consuming centers; $1.60 to $1.70 f.o.b. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, original pack, $4.50 to $5.50 per six-basket crate; repacked $7 to $7.50 in Chicago. North Carolina strawberries sold at 17 to 22¢ quart basis and $6.50 to $7 per 32-quart crate in eastern cities. North Carolina Big Boston type lettuce $1.25 to $2 per 5-peck hamper in eastern markets; $1 f.o.b. Wilmington. Arizona Iceberg type mostly $4 to $4.25 per crate of 4 to 5 dozen heads.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 17 points, closing at 24.18¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 7 points, closing at 23.75¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr. 28	Apr. 27	Apr. 28, 1924
20 Industrials	120.00	119.46	90.99
20 R.R. stocks	96.18	95.68	80.95

(Wall St. Jour., Apr. 28.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XVII, No. 26 Section 1 April 30, 1925.

SISAL MARKETING A Mexico City dispatch to the press to-day states that special dispatches from Merida, Yucatan, state that the formation of a cooperative organization of sisal producers and exporters is being held up because of the alleged unwillingness of the large planters to permit the adequate representation of the small growers that the central Government deems vital. The proceedings of the conference between the sisal interests and State and Federal representatives are at a standstill, awaiting the return of the last named from Mexico City with President Calles' final recommendations.

CANADIAN PULPWOOD MERGER RUMORED An Ottawa dispatch to the press to-day states that the extension merger of Ontario pulp and paper companies with Abitibi interests at the head is rumored, the companies concerned being Abitibi, Keewatin, Fort Frances, Fort William, Mettagami and Spanish River. This combination would have a combined daily output of newsprint much in excess of 1,200 tons.

FARM ELECTRIFICATION M.S. Sloan, president of the Brooklyn Edison Company and of the Empire State Gas and Electric Association, told members of the New York Advertising Club yesterday that farmers were beginning to use electricity on a large scale. He declared that the scientific electrification of farms lowered production costs. "Distribution is our problem," he said. "It costs several times as much to distribute electricity as to manufacture it. In the city there are forty to four hundred consumers to the mile, but in the country there may be only three or four. The electrical utility companies are solving this problem, not by Government subsidization, as in Canada, but by their own efforts." (Press, Apr. 30.)

PRODUCTION INDEX The Federal Reserve Board announces that production in basic industries was smaller in March than in the two preceding months but was as large as at any time in 1924. Distribution of merchandise both at retail and wholesale was in greater volume than a year ago. Wholesale prices, after increasing since the middle of 1924, remained in March at about the same level as in February. The Federal Reserve Board's index of production in basic industries declined in March to a level 5 per cent below the high point reached in January. Iron and steel production and cotton consumption showed less than the usual seasonal increase during March and activity in the woolen industry declined. There was a further decrease in the output of bituminous coal. Increased activity in the automobile industry was reflected in larger output, employment, and payrolls. In general, factory employment and payrolls increased during the month. Value of building contracts awarded in March was the largest on record, notwithstanding the recent considerable reduction in awards in New York City.

GOOD SEED CORN SCARCE IN NEW YORK The scarcity of good seed corn, due to the unfavorable weather conditions which prevailed at the time of maturity last fall, has brought New York farmers face to face with a serious situation, declares the State seed analyst at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. (N.Y. Times, Apr. 30.)

Section 2

Canada and British Tariff

An Ottowa dispatch to the press of April 29 says: "Canadian sugar, tobacco and automobiles, and, to a certain extent, wines, will be the chief beneficiaries under the preference proposals in the budget laid before the British House of Commons April 28 by Chancellor of the Exchequer Winston Spencer Churchill. Automobiles should benefit as a result of the restoration of the McKenna duties by the Churchill budget, giving a preference to empire-built automobiles. Sugar, tobacco and wines came under the first part of the increased preference offer made by the last imperial conference. The present Ministry, it is evident, plans to validate this offer. Under its terms increased or stabilized preferences would be granted to certain articles, among them the three named above, which are already dutiable in Great Britain."

Cooperative Marketing in Britain

An editorial in The Field (London) for April 16 says: "'We are the only people who when we go to buy anything ask "What is the price?" and when we go to sell anything ask the same question.' The Hon. A. C. Dunning, the Prime Minister of Saskatchewan, make this remark in the course of the conference on agricultural cooperation which was held at Wembley last summer. It expresses in a sentence the underlying weakness of the farmer's position in the modern economic structure. In business matters the individual farmer is -- at any rate in this country -- very much at the mercy of the powerful organizations which have grown up around him. But signs are not wanting to show that farmers the world over, and especially in the British Dominions, are discovering that they themselves hold the key. After all they can control the products of the soil at the source, whereas the distributive combine is powerless without supplies from the farmer. In the Dominions farmers have found that they can secure a fair price for their produce only by banding themselves together in organizations which can meet other traders on an equal footing. In this movement the wheat producers of Western Canada have been well to the fore. These circumstances are particularly favorable to the formation of a producers' pool -- a vast area under wheat which has to be marketed at a distance. We understand that in the Province of Saskatchewan over 52,000 farmers have signed contracts binding themselves to deliver wheat to the pool for a period of five years, and that out of a total of twelve-and-a-half million acres under cultivation in this Province in 1924 over seven million acres were guaranteed to the pool. Under this method the farmers in the pool get the same price for the same grade of wheat with a deduction for the cost of handling and freight. All the wheat is disposed of through one selling agency, and it is not difficult to understand that such an organization is in a very influential position in the market. Much the same kind of development is going on in Australia and New Zealand. We hope to deal with these movements on another occasion; here we wish to point out similar signs of the times in this country. The position has become increasingly serious for the British farmer. He is faced by powerful commercial combinations at home and by well-organized competition from overseas. The inspiration provided by Sir Horace Plunkett and his collaborators in

the agricultural cooperation movement has failed to develop into a comprehensive marketing organization in this country for reasons that are well known. But it seems likely that the vigorous interpretation given to cooperative principles by overseas producers may have its application here. Two instances of successful action of this kind in this country come to mind. The Southdown Woolgrowers Limited rapidly became a flourishing organization and dealt with no less than 65,000 fleeces last year. By grading the wool carefully and putting it on the London market direct, the members have been able to realize an extra twopence or threepence a pound for fleeces. We understand that the scope of the Southdown Woolgrowers has now been widened considerably so that in future all sheep-owners in the southern counties will be able to pool their wool and secure the best price. The other development we have in mind is the cooperative sales of Irish cattle successfully organized by the Country Gentlemen's Association. Here there has been no question of pooling in the sense of grading the animals and paying on that basis, but it is a movement akin to those in the Dominions. We understand that the C. G. A in this country has held eight collective sales of cattle which are drawn from its Irish members. The experiment was started last November with the object of finding for the Irish breeder a more satisfactory outlet for his stock than that provided by the ordinary dealer and with the further object of providing a satisfactory supply of Irish stock for the English farmer. It is claimed that these collective sales at Reading, Norwich, Newcastle and Leicester have all been successful in that they have both given the Irish consignors a larger return than they would have secured at home and have fully satisfied the English buyers. Collective bargaining, as practised by dairy farmers through the National Farmers' Union in negotiations with the London milk distributive trade, may well be the preliminary to further concerted action. The present weak position of the producer must be very apparent to the highly organized distributors. They know full well that the farmer has no adequate alternative outlet for his milk and that he is dependent upon them for a fair price. We do not profess to have discovered the best way of strengthening the producer's position. It may come through the establishment of a chain of cooperative depots through the dairying districts, where the farmer's milk can be pooled and apportioned as demand decrees between the fresh milk trade and the manufacturer. Some such scheme has, we understand, commended itself to producers in Sussex and Essex. To strengthen effectively the bargaining power of the producer action along these lines would have to be comprehensive. This is a question in which the National Farmers' Union might well take the lead. Recent events have shown that the N. F. U. will do well to think less about politics and more about the efficient organization of the industry. These are days of great amalgamations in the business world and it behooves farmers to keep abreast of the times."

Dairy Products Tariff

The National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation April 28 issued the following statement: "Representatives of the National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation were present at the hearing of the U. S. Tariff Commission, April 21 and 22, when that body considered the question of the proposed increase in the tariff on butter from 8¢ to 12¢ a pound. A large amount of material was put into the record by our representatives, showing why this rate should be increased. The testimony substantiated the report of the commission's own investigators, who found that there is a difference of at least 12¢ a pound in the cost of producing butter as between Denmark and the United States, the Danish costs being lower. The case appears to hinge upon whether the commission will accept the actual conversion rate on the Danish kroner in relation to the dollar. If the commission accepts actual exchange, it can hardly do otherwise than report an increase in the tariff. If it uses the method advocated by the Danes, of so-called 'Purchasing Power Parity', such a method would increase materially Danish costs..... Following the hearing the commission fixed upon May 11 as the final date for the filing of briefs by the interested parties, in which arguments may be made."

Farm Machinery Waste

An editorial in The Washington Post for April 29 says: "The agricultural colleges throughout the country call attention to the enormous annual loss resulting from the neglect of farm machinery. In Illinois alone it is estimated that the farmers lose $1,387,500 every season through their failure properly to house and protect their implements, which means that at least 10 per cent of the machinery goes to the scrap heap. There are $3,000,000,000 worth of agricultural machines in the United States, so if this proportion of waste holds good in every agricultural region, the annual national loss would equal $300,000,000. As it is, the farmers pay about $440,000,000 each year for new machinery whose average life should be 16 years but is reduced to exactly one-half of that period owing to carelessness. This is an impressive illustration of the other side of the farmer's plight, and lends weight to the retort that if there has not been enough farming in business, there has been far too little business in farming; that the farmer, if he would place himself on a firm economic basis, has got to learn to conduct his operations with more thrift and economy."

Flexible Tariff

President Coolidge intends to administer the flexible tariff from the standpoint of the probable effect of changes in rates of duty upon American industry rather than on the sole basis of equalizing differences in cost of production in this country and abroad, it was made known April 29 to the press. The President's views as to the theory of the flexible tariff were disclosed by White House spokesmen in explanation of the fact that the report of the Tariff Commission recommending a reduction in the duty on linseed oil has been sent to the Agriculture Department. It was explained that the President wished to obtain from the department a report on the relation between

the production of linseed oil and the growing of flax and the probable general effect upon agriculture as a whole of a lowering of the rate on linseed oil. Mr. Coolidge wishes to know whether a lower duty on linseed oil would be injurious to the farmers of the West and what the value of the country's flax crop is in relation to American agriculture in general.

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 29 says: "After a few more tariff schedules have been studied with a view to revision it will be possible to frame a stereotyped outline of the inflexible course of proceedings under a 'flexible' tariff law. The history of the sugar tariff controversy has already afforded a model to be followed by contestants interested in the tariff on linseed oil. Reports from Washington State that the flax growers are now registering protests against the recommendations of the Tariff Commission that the duty on linseed oil should be reduced. The White House has had the matter under advisement for some time and turns in its uncertainty from the report of the Tariff Commission to ask the advice of the Department of Agriculture. The only difference of opinion in the Tariff Commission concerns the amount of the reduction, as half of the members recommend cutting the duty from 24 3/4 cents per gallon to 18 cents, while the others suggest a duty of 20 cents per gallon. It is evident that the manufacturers of linseed oil have a stake in keeping duties on imported oil high, but it is not altogether clear that their interests are identical with those of the growers of seed. It is hard to believe that the interests of oil crushers and domestic flaxseed producers are identical any more than are the those of beet sugar refiners and beet sugar growers. So far as the consumer is concerned, his interest in the controversy seems to be lost to sight."

Wheat Supply

The Wall Street Journal of April 28 says: "'Future generations will see a world shortage of wheat unless rational land and population policies are formulated by the white race.' This is the opinion of Doctor Baker of the Department of Agriculture. While this may not interest the man who wants to know whether or not the May wheat contract will go out without a squeeze, and what is the outlook for July and September futures, it is of importance to us all. The white races of the world, who are the principal consumers of wheat, have an average consumption of 2,525,000,000 bushels a year. Doctor Baker figures that the increase in population of the white race will necessitate 3,200,000,000 bushels in 25 years, 4,300,000,000 in 50 years and 5,800,000,000 in 100 years. Should the average per capita consumption increase to that now prevailing in France, which on account of the inevitably higher prices of meat is almost a certainty, the white races would require 5,500,000,000 bushels annually within 50 years and 7,400,000,000 in the next century. As present day production for all the world ranges from 3,000,000,000 to 3,500,000,000 bushels a year the question of such an increase for the bread supply of the white races alone gives rise to the question 'Can the white man's world almost treble its production of wheat in a century or even produce the 5,500,000,000 bushels which may be needed within the lifetime of some of us?' The figures do suggest the danger of a wheat shortage. The result would be equal to the calamity which Malthus predicted. That

economist in 1798 claimed that population would increase faster than the means of subsistence. The result would mean never ending wars between nations fighting for more land. Nothing but starvation and misery could be foreseen by him. The result of a world wheat shortage would be fully as tragic, because the pressure of population would result in stronger nations fighting for their own preservation, and endeavoring to extend their land areas. If man were content to remain in a static condition then the reasoning of Malthus would be correct. But thus far pressure has been a stimulus to human development. The educated brain has been able more fully to control the forces of nature, and the people of to-day enjoy a food supply larger and more varied than did those in the days of Malthus. Doctor Baker does not fall into the oversight of Malthus, but says the shortage will come 'unless rational land and population policies are formulated.' If from this time on we ceased to make progress, then assuredly the wheat shortage would come and the predictions of Malthus might be fulfilled. As to whether or not those predictions will come true lies with society. The solution of the food problem of the future lies in educated brains."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Grain prices quoted April 29: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.45 1/2 to $1.72 1/2. No. 2 red winter Kansas City $1.64 to $1.70. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.71. No. 2 hard winter Kansas City $1.47 to $1.61; No. 1 hard winter St. Louis $1.58; No. 4 hard winter Chicago $1.49. No. 3 mixed corn Minneapolis 97 to 99¢; No. 4 mixed corn Chicago $1.00 1/2. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.07; Minneapolis $1.02 to $1.05 1/2. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.03 to $1.05; Minneapolis $1.00 to $1.02; St. Louis $1.09. No. 2 white corn Kansas City $1.03; No. 3 white corn Chicago $1.03 1/4; St. Louis $1.06. No. 3 white oats Chicago 40 3/4 to 41 1/2¢; Minneapolis 37 7/8 to 38 3/8¢; St. Louis 43 1/2¢; No. 2 white oasts Kansas City 44¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 45¢; Chicago 43¢; Philadelphia 46¢; Boston 46¢.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.70 for the top and $11.30 to $11.60 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $10.65; butcher cows and heifers $4.35 to $10.75; feeder steers $5.90 to $8.90; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $11; fat lambs $14.25 to $16.25; feeding lambs $13 to $14.50; yearlings $9 to $12.25 and fat ewes $6 to $9.

Florida Spaulding Rose mostly $5 to $5.50 per barrel to jobbers in eastern cities, low as $4.50 to $4.75 in New York, top of $6.25 in Pittsburgh and $3.50 f. o. b. Hastings. North Carolina strawberries declined 5 to 8¢ quart basis in eastern markets to 15¢ to 20¢. Norfolk stock 20¢ per quart in Baltimore. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage weakened slightly to $1.25 to $1.75 per barrel crate and 75¢ to $1.00 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper in eastern markets. Prices of Texas yellow Bermuda onions advanced to $2 to $2.35 per crate in consuming centers; $1.65 to $1.75 f. o. b shipping points. Florida fancy count tomatoes ranged $4.25 to $5.50 per six-basket crate for original pack in eastern cities.

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XVII, No. 27 Section 1 May 1, 1925.

MEXICO DROPS CORN DUTY

Import duties on American corn have been suspended by the Mexican Government for a period of two months beginning April 27. The standard tariff rate imposed by Mexican customs on imports of corn has been .02 pesos per gross kilo, or about 7 cents an American bushel. Consul General Weddell, at Mexico City, reported yesterday to the State Department that the duties had been suspended by executive decree issued April 27. (Press, May 1.)

GRAIN MARKETING COMPANY ASSAILED

An Indianapolis dispatch to the press to-day states that application of the Grain Marketing Company of Chicago to sell in Indiana $1,000,000 class A preferred stock has been filed with the Indiana Public Securities Commission and has been met with a protest by the Indiana Farm Bureau Federation. The commission has set May 12 for a hearing.

BULL BRINGS $12,000 AT SALE

A dispatch from Abington, Pa., to the press to-day says: "When the champion bull, Sir Inka May, consigned to the Fourth Brentwood National Holstein Exhibition by the Minnesota Holstein Company, was led on the block at the Brentwood Farms, Abington, late yesterday afternoon, he started something. That something was spirited bidding among five Holstein enthusiasts. The bidding started at $5000, went to $8000 in $1000 jumps; to $10,000 in $500 raises, and ended twenty minutes later when a representative of the Carnation Milk Farms, of Seattle, called his bid -- 'I'll pay $12,000'..... One hundred and thirty head of pedigreed Holsteins from all over the United States were included in the consignments for exhibit and sale. The first day's sales approximated $40,000."

LYONS SILK INDUSTRY HIT BY BRITISH TARIFF

A Paris dispatch to the press of May 1 states that news of the duty imposed on raw and manufactured silks imported into England has caused consternation at Lyons. It is pointed out that the silk exports from Lyons annually total more than 3,000,000,000 francs, fof which 250,000,000 worth goes to England. Paris also is a big exporter of silk to England, and Chancellor of the Exchequer Churchill's program may cost Paris another 500,000,000 francs. The Lyons Chamber of Commerce has appealed to the Foreign Office to use its good offices with the British Government in an attempt to repeal the silk duties.

Section 2

Crops and Business

The Florida Times-Union for April 28 says: "The fact that the farmers of the country realized about seven hundred and fifty million dollars more for the crops of 1924 than were received for the crops of 1923 is something that has been considerably exploited, and the return in fairly good conditions has caused much more optimism among the agricultural classes. It is responsible for the increased acreages reported and contemplated--against the advice of the Department of Agriculture, and further increases will no doubt be told of later. An item of news coming from presumably good authority places the probable harvest of winter wheat as more than a hundred million bushels short of last year's crop, and this should check the downward trend of wheat prices, at least for a time. Then among the cotton planters there is the feeling that the big crop of 1924 will be used up, or nearly so, by the time the new crop comes in. The cotton farmers have come to realize fully the difficulties in their way. The efforts to combat the boll weevil are considerably systematized, and early plantings are expected to be of good service in this measure. A good business year is one in which the farmer has money to buy necessities and perhaps some other things. When the farmer is put to much trouble to finance his next crop and must strictly economize on essentials general business is never really good."

Export Legislation

An editorial in The Kansas City Daily Drovers Telegram for April 22 says: "Those who have favored legislation looking toward the Government taking over certain export activities should take notice of the meat trade situation in Europe, where favor is being extended to meats other than those of production in the United States. Canada is getting preferred treatment at the hands of English meat dealers, partially because of sentiment, and partially because of costs, which are lower on Canadian than American pork. Australia, New Zealand and South America are underbidding the United States in selling beef and mutton to Europe, and Denmark and other North sea countries are underselling the United States on bacon to go to England. Germany, it should be noted by the reports of the United States Department of Commerce, is killing into its own supplies of meat animals and is taking lessened quantities of productions of meats from the United States. Now, if we had a dumping bill, would it help any? Could we compel European countries to take American productions, or rather those of the United States, as against those of countries which can produce meats cheaper than we can? Most certainly not--not at present prices of the live animals in the United States....."

Cream Grading

An editorial in The Prairie Farmer for April 25 says: "We need a plan or system for grading cream. At present there is no incentive offered a dairyman for properly cooling and delivering a high quality cream. He receives no pay for his efforts. The good dairyman sees his own good cream bring the same price as his neighbor's which is fit for nothing but axle grease. This condition is bad. It makes our butter sell for less money in competition with that from other States that are grading. It imposes a handicap on our

butter manufacturers. Its evils are reflected in a lower average price for butterfat paid our cream shippers. Cream buyers and butter manufacturers are responsible for this state of affairs. They are so busy fighting each other, trying to get business away from competitors, that they have failed to solve this perplexing problem. It is time someone made a serious attempt to solve it."

Home Economics

The press of April 28 says: "Girls who can not cook, sew, iron and wash clothing are not well educated even though they hold the degrees of all the universities under the sun, in the opinion of Miss C. J. H. Cowdroy, head mistress of Crouch End High School and College in London. Some educationalists want girls to be trained like boys with an eye to their future careers, but since ten out of every eleven women could marry and about that proportion of girls did marry, that fact ought surely to be considered when talking of careers, Miss Cowdroy contended in the course of a recent lecture. 'I deprecate the view some educationalists hold that a woman can possess far higher qualities than those which go to make a wise wife and mother,' said the head mistress. 'Some think the clever girls too good for them, the dullards being good enough to continue the race. I understand that in some British schools for girls the pupils are divided into two sections, the clever half studying sciences and the dead languages, while the duller girls give their time to cookery and housewifery. A girl should be proud she can cook and sew, iron and wash, and that she can save some money wisely and well. I hold that a girl who can not do all these things is not well educated, although she may have been awarded the degrees of all the universities in the world.'"

Linseed Oil Tariff

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for April 30 says: "Somewhere there is a flaw in the reasoning processes of the spokesman for the President when he tries to explain why the latest recommendations of the Tariff Commission on linseed oil duties have been held up pending receipt of further advice from the Department of Agriculture. The President, it seems, is not sure that tariff changes designed to equalize costs of production between countries are synonymous with tariff changes beneficial to domestic industry..... The President has evidently discovered that this simple theory does not apply in all cases--certainly not to sugar, and may be not in the case of linseed oil. Experience is proving that no single formula is applicable to anything so complicated as a protective tariff system. It would save our official spokesmen a deal of trouble to confess the fact and give up the attempt to conceal their logical embarrassments behind a barrage of words....."

Marketing Research

The National Stockman and Farmer for April 25 says: "During the past five years there has been a regular flood of talk about marketing. Leaders of agricultural organizations, statesmen and imitations thereof, editors, college presidents or

deans, and even officials of commercial bodies have spilled a steady stream of generalities about marketing into the rising flood of such talk. We have heard them say that production has been well attended to but marketing has been overlooked; that farmers know how to produce but do not know how to sell; that research and education in marketing have been neglected by our experiment stations and colleges, and these subjects should now be stressed rather than the matter of production. In all of this talk, and we have heard a lot of it, we can not recall that any speaker has outlined a single definite project of research for the consideration of our experiment stations; nor do we know of many definite suggestions for those who teach agriculture in our schools and colleges. It is time for those who have had so much to say on this subject to come forward with a few definite projects. The Purnell act appropriates increasing sums for research and specifies that the money may be used for research in marketing. The experiment stations are looking for suggestions. The public expects research in marketing since hearing so much of it and funds have been provided for it. What projects do the leaders of our agricultural organizations advocate? They now have an opportunity to submit definite plans, and it is up to them to trot them out for inspection and discussion."

Millers and Futures Markets

The Northwestern Miller for April 22 says: "In refusing to adopt a resolution favoring an appeal to the Government in the event that grain exchanges fail to eliminate abuses from the present system of future trading, the Millers' National Federation last week undoubtedly reflected the views of an overwhelming majority of members of this industry. But an equally truthful reflection of millers' opinions was embodied in the resolution which was adopted calling upon boards of trade to abolish 'inordinate speculation -- as an intolerable evil.' Few, if any, millers ever have favored the destruction of the system of future trading. Even those who do not use its facilities for hedging purposes recognize its necessity as a price balance, at least until some better system is created. On the other hand, there are few who are not convinced that, unless remedial measures are undertaken for the protection of the system against misuse, its evils will in time overcome its merits and it will become, as indeed it has been for several weeks past, destructive of business rather than useful as a safeguard for normal commerce. These remedial measures must come from within; for if they come from without, which necessarily would mean full and probable unintelligent government control, they would certainly mean application of the kind of medicine which destroys the disease by making away with the patient. The proposals coming from the millers are, therefore, moderate, sound and timely. As the largest legitimate users of future market protection, millers are willing to aid the exchanges in corrective action. If the exchanges fail promptly to accept the offer they will convict themselves of being as blind and stupid as their critics claim."

Raisin Growers' Cooperative

The press of April 25 states that a strict selective process will govern the admission of members to the Sun-Maid Raisin Growers of California now under regulations approved by the board of directors. In abandoning the old method of admitting all growers, Sun-Maid is seeking to safeguard present members by accepting only efficient growers who understand American principles. Effective immediately, any grower desiring the benefits of cooperative marketing will have to make formal application for admission and this application will have to be recommended by three members of the cooperative, one of whom must be the adviser of the unit or a member of the unit executive committee. Loyal members thus are in a position to exercise an effective check on growers whom they know from past experience to be unsuited to cooperative effort. No application will be presented to the board of directors unless 100 per cent of the vineyard in question is signed up. In this connection the association says that the acreage thrown out of the cooperative at the last withdrawal period included all fractions of vineyards in accordance with the recommendation of the advisory council that partial contracts be canceled.

Wool Outlook

The Pastoral Review (Melbourne) for March 16 says: "Mr. Walter Andrews, of Laycock and Co., recently addressed members of the Bradford trade on 'Wool Supplies.' He said that for 20 years before the war the quantity of wool grown in exporting centers had remained almost stationary, and consumption had fluctuated very little. Any slight decrease in production was met by the admixture of cotton and by resort to the spinning of finer counts. During the last three years the consumption of wool had been at least 1,000,000 bales per annum more than the pre-war consumption and production. At the same time, the actual production of wool had been below pre-war. The result was that all the wool accumulated during the war had now been cleared, and they were faced with a probable demand of something like 1,000,000 bales per annum in excess of present production. The United States would be compelled to purchase abroad at least 500,000 bales more per annum than pre-war, on account of: -- First, her decreasing domestic production of wool; second, the enormously increased wealth of the country; and, third, a very heavy increase in population. The European demand, including the United Kingdom, despite limited ability to buy, was fully equal to absorbing a further excess of 250,000 bales. Under pre-war conditions, slight irregularities in supply and demand were regulated by the increased or decreased consumption of cotton. How far cotton would be available for in some way making up the deficiency in wool he would not venture to say, but there was a second substitute becoming available, viz., artificial silk, which would go some way towards easing the position. The production of artificial silk, as compared with the consumption of wool, was still almost a negligible quantity, but the production was growing rapidly. There was also a third factor which could not be ignored. This was the question of finance. When an article became exceedingly dear, the demand was proportionately reduced, also the difficulty

of financing wool at inflated values would become exceedingly acute. It would appear that the great necessity at the present time was for a largely increased production of wool. In the British Isles the production was falling. In Europe it was certainly not increasing. In the United States, also, the production was definitely decreasing. A slight increase in South America might be looked for in the near future. There also were possibilities of an increase at the Cape, but they were not any too hopeful. The only two countries to which they could look for a greatly increased production of wool were Australia and New Zealand."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr. 30: Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes closed at $4.50 to $5.50 per barrel in leading city markets, top of $6 in Pittsburgh; $3.50 f. o. b. Hastings. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, irregular at $4.50 to $6 per original six-basket carrier; repacked stock $7 to $7.50 in Chicago. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage 75¢ to $1.00 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper and mostly $1.25 to $1.75 per barrel in eastern cities. Texas yellow Bermuda onions ranged from 10¢ to 50¢ higher at $2 to $2.40 per crate in consuming centers; $1.60 to $1.70 f. o. b. Texas points. North Carolina Klondike strawberries 15¢ to 20¢ quart basis, top of 22¢ to 28¢ for best berries in New York.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.55 for the top and $11.10 to $11.40 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $10.90; butcher cows and heifers $4.50 to $10.75; feeder steers $5.90 to $8.90 and light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $11; fat lambs $14 to $16; feeding lambs $13 to $14.50; yearlings $9.75 to $13 and fat ewes $6.25 to $9.25.

Grain prices quoted April 30: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.46 to $1.73. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.80 to $1.82; Kansas City $1.65 to $1.71. No. 2 hard winter Chicago $1.59 3/4; St. Louis $1.62; Kansas City $1.52 to $1.56 No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City 97 1/2 to 99 1/4¢. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.06 3/4 to $1.09; Kansas City $1.05 1/2 to $1.06. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.02 to $1.06; Minneapolis 98 1/2 to $1.00 1/2; St. Louis $1.09. No. 3 white corn Chicago $1.04 1/2; St. Louis $1.06. No. 3 white oats Chicago 40 1/4 to 42 1/4¢; Minneapolis 37 to 38 5/8¢; St. Louis 43 1/2 to 44 1/2¢; Kansas City 43 to 43 1/2¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 42¢; Chicago 40 3/4; Philadelphia 42 1/2¢; Boston 44¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 5 points, closing at 24.37¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 9 points, closing at 24.06¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. XVII, No. 28 Section 1 May 2, 1925.

THE PRESIDENT ON HIGHWAY TRAFFIC

President Coolidge, in an address yesterday on the national highway crisis before members of the American Automobile Association, who are meeting at Washington to study traffic problems, said: "The coming of millions of motor cars brought a highway crisis. It took one form in the cities, and another form in the country. The motor car invasion found the open country with plenty of room for the new vehicle, but without fit roads. On the other hand, it found cities and towns that had been laid out and built at a time when it was impossible to anticipate the traffic congestion that the motor cars precipitated. The open country has dealt with its part of this problem by providing good roads on an amazing scale and at a tremendous cost. The cities were not able to adjust themselves so quickly, and so they confronted a situation which plainly implied the necessity for completely overhauling and reshaping their highway and traffic system. It is perfectly plain that if, when our cities and towns were first laid out, the motor car revolution could have been anticipated, both ground plans and structures would have been arranged on widely different lines. The relations between business and residence and industrial districts would have been vastly different. Convenient and adequate parking spaces would have been provided, quite as a matter of course. One can not help wondering how a model city, adapted to the conditions they all now confront, would have been organized if from its beginning these conditions could have been foreseen..... It seems fairly certain that is a half century ago men could have foreseen this transportation revolution, they would have agreed that it meant an end to the congestion of population in the limited areas of cities. It would have been assumed that when once the business man and the working man found themselves able to live many miles away from their employment there would immediately begin a sweeping redistribution of population, spreading it over wider areas and organizing it in quite different communities..... Some recent studies by engineers and sociologists have led to doubts whether the superior efficiency of the very great cities as business, industrial and cultural centers can be taken altogether for granted. They have advantages, but they also have disadvantages; and the disadvantages seem to be multiplying fastest....."

PACKERS DECREE

The press to-day says: "Ten years of agitation on the part of the Department of Justice to prevent an alleged food monopoly by the 'Big Five Packers'-- namely Armour & Co., Wilson & Co. and the Cudahy Packing Company--went for naught yesterday in Equity Court at Washington when Justice Jennings Bailey signed an order suspending the decree of Feb. 27, 1920, under which the packers have released 90 per cent. of their holdings in the provision business except as it related to meat. Because the Department of Justice which forced consent to the decree, failed to take into consideration the property rights of growers and producers whose products were marketed by the packers, it will now have to prove the packers guilty of violation of the anti-trust law to force them to limit their activities."

Section 2

Business and Crops

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for May 1 says: "For some time past it has been pretty widely realized that the success business in general is likely to enjoy during the current year will depend in rather unusual degree upon the size and the salability of the crops. There is reason enough to doubt whether our exports of manufactured goods can be expected to increase in the early future in sufficient degree to put a solid foundation under the general business situation should domestic demand fall away very substantially .....In these circumstances it is but natural that our manufacturers and traders are looking with unusually longing eyes toward the large potential consuming power of rural districts in this country..... On the side of production the situation is somewhat mixed, but on the whole probably as promising as it was at this time last year. Winter wheat does not promise as much, the indications being still in favor of a rather short crop, a fact which is likely to cost a fair number of farmers rather dearly, particularly in such districts as Kansas, where farming is largely upon a one crop basis. But spring wheat so far bids fair to do well. The cotton situation is full of possibilities but is as yet distinctly precarious. Apparently there is nothing in the outlook for corn and the other field crops to cause discouragement and a good deal to indicate that good crops may be forthcoming next autumn. So much for the supply side of the current state of affairs. The demand for such crops as the farmers of this country succeed in raising is likewise a question at this time. By and large it may be said that it depends in large measure upon the ability of foreign peoples to take our surpluses at reasonable prices. If other wheat producing countries succeed in raising a normal crop of that grain we shall not again experience another wheat market such as that of last year, but that, of course, does not necessarily indicate that the farmer as a rule will not be able to take a profit from his operations. The latest developments in Europe are of a mixed character, but it no longer requires more than rather moderate demand for our raw cotton to establish and maintain a profitable price to the farmer for his supplies."

Business Conditions

Business will continue to decline, but the recession will be moderate, in the view of Dr. Lewis H. Haney, director of the Bureau of Business Research of New York University. In summing up favorable and unfavorable factors he makes a division of points which he lists as follows: Favorable factors--New business enterprises increase, purchasing power good, money easy and finances sound, readjustment in production, stocks of manufactured commodities decrease, more favorable exports, and imports, gain in bank debits. Unfavorable factors--Commodity prices falling, production in several basic industries in excess of consumption, large decrease in unfilled steel orders and scrap prices, steel castings bookings decrease again, stocks of manufactured commodities large, business failures increase. Comparing the present turn in industry with those in the spring of 1923 and again in 1924, it may be said that overproduction has recentl

been checked in a more timely way and conclusion may be drawn that such recession as is under way or in prospect will be much more moderate than in those years." (Press, May 1.)

College Training and Farming

"Where Does He Go From College?" is the title of an article by E. H. Taylor in The Country Gentleman for May 2. The author says in part: "Farming is not getting its share of the college-trained young men of the country. Not only are fewer young men enrolling in the farm courses of the agricultural colleges but a majority of those who do are not returning to the farm. They may perhaps be serving agriculture in some way or going into lines related to it, but they are not engaging directly in farming. This situation is not good for farming or for the Nation.... The loss of such young men is one of the gravest problems confronting agriculture, for its effects will be far longer lasting than some of the present difficulties that are claiming attention. It has the agricultural colleges disturbed. For one thing, the absence of a satisfactory supply of college-trained young men returning to the farm lays the colleges open to the old criticism--that they turn young men away from instead of toward the farm. While denying this criticism in the main, some agricultural college men admit there are certain grounds for it. When the dean of a prominent agricultural college called upon his faculty members for opinions on how to meet the decline in enrollment he received, among others, these comments: "The aim of too many of our faculty members is to develop specialists in their own lines rather than to equip the large body of students to return to the farm. 'Not enough of our staff are convinced that a four-year college course is a justifiable investment for a young man intending to return to the farm.'"

Several college officials are quoted on this subject in the article. Dean Coffey of Minnesota says: "There ought to be conditions in agriculture which make it quite possible for young men and women to pursue the fuller four-year course with a view to returning directly to the land. If we are to have the type of agriculture in America that is generally conceded to be the type we should strive for, it must be possible for young people to get a college training and go directly on the land."

Distribution Conference

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States announces that the general problem of distribution,--the wide range of activities involved in the transfer of goods from producer to consumer,--is reflected in the program of the thirteenth annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to be held at Washington, May 19th to May 22nd. Edwin T. Meredith, former Secretary of Agriculture, president of the Meredith publications, who has made a special study of the needs of the farming population for merchandise, will, under the title of "Misinformation as a Basis for Estimates on Marketing Expenditures," point out some fields of distribution which have been overlooked by national distributors. He will discuss particularly methods by which the 50,000,000 people in rural sections can be reached. Other aspects of distribution will be taken up by

William E. Humphrey, Federal Trade Commissioner, who will explain the commission's procedure and policy with reference to trade practices. Larger questions of federal policy in respect of trade will be discussed by Representative Samuel E. Winslow, of Massachusetts.

German Food Consumption

A Berlin dispatch to the press of May 1 says: "German meat consumption is gradually reverting to the most opulent period of the pre-war period, Count von Kanitz, Minister of Agriculture, has informed the Reichstag. Last year's meat consumption amounted to 821 pounds per capita. In the last pre-war year, it amounted to 102 pounds, while in 1922 only 44 pounds per head were consumed. On the other hand, bread consumption shows a marked diminution as compared with the days before the war, whereas the consumption of potatoes has increased. The use of fresh milk has decreased from 316,000 gallons prior to the war to 187,000 gallons last year. This decrease was compensated for, however, by increased consumption of condensed milk. A representative of the Food Ministry has reported the annual importation in 1913 of condensed milk as amounting to 1,700 tons, which was increased to 4,200 tons in 1922, with a further increase to 12,000 tons in 1924. This represents a sevenfold increase in milk imports since 1913."

Forest Products Talk

"A Survey of the Lumber Industry" is the subject of an address to be delivered by John W. Blodgett, Grand Rapids, Mich., before a special meething of representatives of the natural resources industries to be held as a part of the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, at Washington, May 20 to 22, according to an announcement of the Chamber. It says further: "Although Mr. Blodgett is one of the largest individual owners of forests in the United States and an extensive manufacturer of forest products, he has found time to take an active part in matters affecting the relationship of the industry and the public. Mr. Blodgett has devoted considerable attention to such questions as a national forestry policy looking to the development of our forests and the movement for better utilization of forest products."

Hoover on Gold Standard

Secretary Hoover expressed the opinion April 30 that the return of Great Britain to the gold standard would benefit the economic world at large. With the action taken by Great Britain, he said, all but about 10 per cent of the world's trade would go on a gold basis. According to estimates made by Secretary Hoover, the total exports and imports now involved in world trade are valued at about $45,000,000,000, and of this amount about $35,000,000,000 is now put on a gold basis. German marks, he said, automatically go on a gold basis following sterling, under the provisions of the Dawes plan. (Press, May 1.)

Land Holdings

Lake County (Oregon) Examiner for April 26 says: "The Secretary of Agriculture recently warned the settlers of the hard-pressed western reclamation unit that they were grasping after the will-o'-the-wisp of too much land that would break them, instead of carefully cultivating smaller acreage that should make them rich. When the great Twin Falls irrigation tract in Idaho was opened, the average holding was above 100 acres. Many of the first holders worked themselves into the poor-house or the grave, trying to pay on so much land. But every year the average holding has decreased, until it is now under 20 acres--and they are prosperous instead of broke. The Okanogan project in Washington, where the holdings have receded in size to only 12 acres, is producing an average of $300 an acre a year, according to Federal figures. Smaller farms, better crops and business judgment is the sure foundation of farm prosperity. It is not a matter of legislation or Federal or State aid."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture 1

An editorial in The New York Herald-Tribune for May 1 says: "The exclusion of foreign narcissus bulbs, to take effect next January, has aroused a Nation-wide protest by gardeners. They know that it will cause a serious shortage of some varieties. They can see no justification for this extension of the drastic restrictions on plant immigration previously imposed by the Federal Horticultural Board. The narcissus embargo is simply the removal of one class of bulbs from the favored list of six in the sweeping Quarantine 37 which five years ago closed the door against all nursery stock and other plants with the exception of specified groups. This drastic regulation under the plant quarantine act of 1912 was a dubious and extraordinary exercise of assumed power, although its validity has not yet been challenged in the courts.... The board has in fact invaded the economic field and built a Chinese wall of exclusion on a foundation of entomology. That the plant quarantine act contemplated any such result is gravely to be doubted. The board, ostensibly alarmed for the safety of agriculture, and therefore adopting a policy of heremetic sealing, is wielding its discretionary power under the plant quarantine act as a weapon of coercion gravely affecting the fortune, for good or bad, of nurserymen and florists, raising prices, playing havoc generally with long-established trades. This is entomology run mad. A dozen pests might be less harmful in the end than the smothering process the board has adopted."

2

An editorial in American Forests and Forest Life for May says: "At a meeting of the executive committee of the general council, National Conference on Outdoor Recreation, held in Washington early in April, the resignation of William C. Gregg, as a member of the executive committee, was accepted, and Barrington Moore, of New York, was elected in his place. Mr. Gregg is the author of the article, 'Has the Forest Service Gone Daffy?'

which was published in the February 11 issue of the Outlook, a periodical of which Mr. Gregg is said to be part owner. The article brought forth widespread protests and was characterized as an insidious, misleading, and unsupported statement designed to shake the public conference in forestry and the Forest Service. Mr. Gregg's resignation, it is reported, followed an earlier meeting of the executive committee at which general exception was taken to the methods employed by him in attacking the Forest Service. His successor, Barrington Moore, is secretary of the Council on National Parks, Forests and Wild Life, and has long been identified with the forest and park movements. He is a trained forester, and has done conspicuous work in the field of forest ecology. He is also secretary of the Ecological Society of America."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 1: Florida Spaulding Rose declined at $4.50 to $5.50 per barrel to jobbers in eastern cities; $3.75 f. o. b. Hastings. Arkansas and Tennessee Klondike strawberries mostly $4 to $5.25 per 24-quart crate in city wholesale markets; $3.25 to $3.50 f. o. b. Tennessee points. Alabama and Louisiana cabbage $2 to $2.25 in leading markets; mostly $1.00 f. o. b. Mobile. Texas yellow Bermuda onions sold from 10¢ to 40¢ higher than a week ago, closing at $2.25 to $2.50 per crate for best stock in consuming centers; $1.70 to $1.75 f. o. b. Laredo. Crystal Wax $2.40 to $2.75, top of $3 in Cincinnati. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, original packed sizes, strengthened slightly in New York to $5 to $5.50 and weakened to a range of $4 to $5.00 in most other markets.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.50 for the top and $11.20 to $11.40 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $10.90; butcher cows and heifers $4.50; feeder steers $5.90 to $9; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $10.75.

Grain prices quoted May 1: No. 1 dark nothern Minneapolis $1.53 to $1.80. No. 2 red winter Chicago $1.84; St. Louis $1.85 to $1.90; Kansas City $1.70 to $1.77. No. 2 hard winter Kansas City $1.58 to $1.74. No. 3 hard winter Chicago $1.59. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.01 to $1.02; No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.03 3/4; Minneapolis 96 1/2 to 99 1/2¢. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.10 1/2¢ to $1.11 1/2; Kansas City $1.08 to $1.08 1/2. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.04 1/2 to $1.08 3/4; Minneapolis $1.01 1/2 to $1.03 1/2; No. 3 white corn St. Louis $1.09 1/2 to $1.11; No. 2 white corn Kansas City $1.07 1/2. No. 3 white oats Chicago 40 3/4 to 43 3/4¢; Minneapolis 39 1/8¢ to 39 5/8¢; St. Louis 45 1/2¢; No. 2 white oats Kansas City 44 to 44 1/4¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 42; Chicago 40 1/4¢; Philadelphia 42 1/2¢; Boston 43 1/2¢.

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XVII, No. 29 Section 1 May 4, 1925.

MARCY ON GRAIN PRICES

The recent collapse in grain prices after their advance of last fall and winter, according to the view of G. E. Marcy, chairman of the board of managers of the Grain Marketing Company of Chicago, was caused by the tremendous holdings of speculators and the misleading of the public as to the condition of the world grain market. In a statement made public at Washington May 3, Mr. Marcy declared that this misleading information made the American grain prices so much higher than the world's prices during the period preceding the collapse that, for the time being, the American farmer lost his market and at the same time a much higher market was made for the Australian and Argentine farmers. "If the law of supply and demand had been allowed unrestricted play," he said, "I believe the American wheat would have sold on a strictly domestic basis, which means the world's price plus an import duty of 42 cents." Mr. Marcy expressed the opinion that conditions warranted a high price level for all grains this year, and declared that had it not been for an artificial technical condition developed through speculative manipulation, grains in this country would have sold at higher levels than they reached. (Press, May 4.)

INDUSTRIES TO CONSERVE FORESTS

A nation-wide movement to conserve the lumber resources of the United States was started May 2 by the appointment of a conservation committee, of which Secretary Hoover has agreed to act as chairman. The committee is to make a thorough study of the wood-using industries and report at a conference to be held next fall. One of the big objects sought is to obtain closer cooperation in insuring full use of all timber cut. The committee comprises representatives of the railways, the paper and pulp industry, purchasing agents of the country, wood-using industries, lumber manufacturers and retailers, architects and contractors, the American Engineering Council and the national farmer organizations. A preliminary conference, called by Secretary Hoover, was in session at Washington last week, and it was voted that definite action to bring about conservation was essential to the best interests of the Nation. At the close of the conference the situation was summed up by John V. W. Reynders of New York, who represented the American Engineering Council. "The United States," he said, "has been living in a fool's paradise. Foreign Governments are studying economics, and unless we take the same steps economy measures will be forced upon us. Industry must look at such problems from a national standpoint." (Press, May 3.)

LEGION ASKED TO AID FORESTS

The press to-day states that the national organization of the American Legion will be asked to align itself with the forces working for forest preservation, according to an announcement just made by Barrington Moore, of Lexington Post 108. A resolution to that effect was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the county committee of the legion last Monday, in connection with American Forest Week, Mr. Moore said. The resolution will be sent to State and National headquarters of the legion.

Section 2

Cotton Acreage

The Journal of Commerce for May 2 says: "The estimate of cotton acreage published by this newspaper yesterday shows an apparent increase of 4 1/2 per cent above 1924. No estimate is more than approximate, but there is every reason to suppose that these figures are conservative and that in due time they will be sustained by the final figures of the Government, as they have been in past years. The main fa is that cotton acreage will be higher this year than last, unless, of course, some unexpected disaster at a late date reduces the area under the growing plant. Wheat acreage is also higher--early figures would seem to show--by 8 per cent to 10 per cent. Granting good weather there will be a much larger output of cotton and wheat this year than there was last. Probably this growth of wheat acreage is directly attributable to the better prices that are being realized for that staple, although it must be admitted that if that be true the effect of the higher yield has made itself apparent very promptly. Still there is more or less warrant for taking the view that better prices have increased acreage. In those circumstances it would seem therefore that wheat producers regarded the present quotation of wheat as remunerative and, of course, the same kind of argument applies in the case of cotton. If they do not think that the prices which they are likely to get will pay at least a nominal return why should they plant more acres than last year? And yet there has been the most positive assurance for a long time past that with cotton at its present value, around 24c, there was no money in the production of that crop, and that with wheat at anything under $1.50 the bulk of the producers were, at all events, on a very narrow margin of return. These statements do not harmonize with the facts in the case, nor do they warrant the statements of people like the former Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor of Illinois, as well as other public figures, that the farmer is in a disastrous position....."

Diversification

The Journal of Commerce for May 2 says: "....The southern farmer is constantly being urged to plant more corn and other food crops and less cotton, thus relieving himself of the necessity of depending upon purchased food, for which he must pay in cash, while at the same time avoiding overproduction of cotton and consequent 'loss'. Abstractly the advice is good and ought to commend itself to the 'one crop' farmers, not only in the South but in other sections of the country. Reasonable diversification has long been recognized as a safeguard against fluctuations of value. But here again the question of diversification involves problems of soil, equipment and other matters, so that acceptance of such advice may be a good deal easier to urge than it is to put into effect. It may involve a rather serious change of front and an important modification in the use of capital. The farmer who fails to diversify his agriculture obviously thinks that he is likely to get more net income on the old plan. This may be with many the result of ignorance or stubborness. It can not be supposed that these qualities hold good throughout a whole region or over a whole population of farmers. The simple truth of the matter is that American agriculture is about as profitable as other American occupations, all things considered. The business man who has overinvested in a particular line would often like to diversify but can not do it."

Nut Growing in Canada

The success of efforts to grow filberts on a commercial scale in British Columbia is reported in a bulletin of the Canadian Pacific Railway describing the results attained by David Gellatly, one of the pioneers of the nut-raising industry on the Pacific Coast. The many bearing trees in various districts of the Province attest the fact that the experimental stage has passed. Filberts and hazels are the hardiest of nut-bearing trees, and the new resource is considered worth developing, since the crop is not perishable and there is no marketing problem. It is pointed out that the Pacific Northwest is one of the few localities on the continent where filberts thrive sufficiently well to make their growing worth while from a commercial standpoint. (Press, Apr. 24.)

Packers' Side Lines

Glenn Griswold, Chicago correspondent of The Philadelphia Ledger, in the issue of May 2 says: "Within an hour after Justice Bailey, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, had entered a formal order suspending the packers' consent decree 'in every particular,' Louis F. Swift, president of Swift & Co., issued a statement saying: 'Swift & Co. does not intend to resume the handling of grocery lines that were prohibited by the consent decree.' There is an element of comedy in this situation, of course, but the predominating note is business tragedy. There was a time when the Chicago packers were an important economic factor in the distribution of food products other than refinements of meat. With their organizations spread throughout the country, with refrigerator lines, branch offices and sales agencies everywhere, they were able to distribute food products more efficiently and more cheaply than had been done theretofore. What is more important, they afforded to thousands of small canners throughout the country ready market at a fair price and for cash of a considerable part of the output of canned foods. Wholesale grocers attacked the practice; attracted the fire of the Government, and the case went into court..... Swift & Co. definitely refuses to resume the job of distributing food products other than those that come from its own meat-packing plants. Wilson & Co. foresaw what was to happen and quit the grocery business before the litigation that terminated in the consent decree was begun."

Purnell Bill

H. J. Waters, writing in The Weekly Kansas City Star for April 29, says: "A new impetus was given research work in agriculture in the United States through the passage by the last Congress of the Purnell bill, increasing the support and broadening the scope of State experiment stations. Some there are, and among them farmers, who hold to the view that more experimental work is among the least of the needs of agriculture. Others there are, and farmers are in this group too, who ask scornfully what experiment stations have accomplished that they should be granted additional appropriations, especially at a time like this. Few of us realize how may farm practices, now universal, had their origin in the work of experiment stations. Deprive agriculture of the benefits of the discoveries of science in the last half century, and the best of our

farmers would make a poor living and none could support anything like the standard of living farm families now enjoy. We commit a grievous error, too, when we assume that the farmer has been the sole beneficiary of the contributions of science to agriculture. The city dweller has profited almost equally with the farmer, through better wages, lower costs of living and better standards of living. Rob the world of the agricultural development due to scientific discovery and the wheels of progress would be turned back half a century at least. Shut up the laboratories and the workshops of scientific institutions and leave agriculture to its own ways of getting ahead and future progress, not on the farm only, but in the city also, would be almost completely blocked. It is frequently said, and it is measurably true, that we already have a greater body of agricultural knowledge than we apply in our farm practices. The same thing is true of every human activity. We have more knowledge of religion, morals and medicine than we practice, but we go on, as we should, seeking new light for guidance and new ways of alleviating suffering and better means of prolonging human life. The moment we cease to create new knowledge, that moment we cease to progress and fall into a state of permanent stagnation."

Price Factors

An editorial in Farm, Stock and Home for April 15 says: "We have asked those who are sure farmers can get any price they set by the simple process of holding a commodity off the market until the desired figure is reached, how the selling is going to be regulated so as to maintain the price. We have never had an answer. A very good example of what would happen is the action of the wheat market when Minneapolis May wheat reached $2.00. This was a price that seemed to be generally agreed would be reached. Just as soon as it was reached, traders with profits rushed to sell, and in a very short time, the price was off 30 cents and eventually declined 70 cents. The same thing would certainly be true if actual wheat were withheld from market for a stated price. The instant that price was bid, even for a small amount of wheat, every bushel of the crop would be for sale because everybody having any would be anxious to sell. It may be urged that if all wheat could be pooled and held until the desired price is reached and then released only as bid for, the price could be maintained. Theoretically, this is true, but the queer part of it is the folks who are most insistent that all farmers need to do is to 'hold' are absolutely opposed to the pooling idea. They are possessed with the idea that holding is all there is to marketing."

Southern Agriculture

Commerce Monthly for May contains an extensive article on "Industrialization in the Southern States." This says in part: "The southern population still maintains more than its per capita share of agricultural production. Thirty-eight per cent of the country's farm crops and animal products in 1923 came from the sixteen Southern States. Considering farm crops alone, as valued in the census of 1919, the South's share was 41 per cent. Over half

the total number of American farms are in this section and 36 per cent. of the improved acreage in farms. The grim necessity which forced large landowners to break up and sell their plantations during the years of reconstruction worked out to the ultimate benefit of the South in building up a class of small landowners and tenant farmers..... The industrial system which is growing up in the agricultural South is based upon the utilization of local materials and supported largely by local capital. It is varied in its range and well distributed, the leading manufacturing industry, cotton goods, having less than one-seventh of the total capital investment."

Southern Exposition

Manufacturers Record for April 30 says: "Due to the enthusiasm and the energy shown by many States and organizations and groups of business men throughout the South, success is assured for the great Southern Exposition, to be held at the Grand Central Palace New York, for two week, beginning May 11. 'The Southern Exposition is going over in whirlwind fashion, 'said Vice President Nixon of the International Exposition in an interview in the Johnson City (Tenn.) Chronicle. 'Its success is going to be felt in the South for years to come.' Mississippi is in line, and Alabama; Georgia is in fine shape; Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky are eager for the opening; South Carolina is fixed up and North Carolina is in excellent shape, as are Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana and Texas, with Tennessee on a spurt, Mr. Nixon finds in observation on his travels."

Women Farm Workers in Britain

A London dispatch to the press of May 1 states that a back-to-the-land movement designed to stimulate interest among girls and women in agricultural pursuits has been launched lately by the Women's Farm and Garden Association of which Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, is president. The organization already has been furnishing some women to the farmers, particularly from their list of skilled women land workers. but the movement now is planned to supply agriculturists with feminine workers who are willing to pick small fruit, help out in milking, attend to the horses and pigs, and do the numerous other chores about the farm which are often the bane of the men workers.

Woolen Activity

Activity in the woolen industry as a whole in March showed a slight decline from the preceding month, according to an analysis by the Bureau of the Census of reports received from 906 manufacturers operating 1,067 mills. (Press, Apr. 30)

Wool Market

A London dispatch to the press of April 28 states that conditions in the wool market are still unsatisfactory. Weak sellers have been obliged to accept ruinous prices and no buying is anticipated until the London auctions open on May 5 next. Offerings of colonial wool. this year will probably be heavier than was at one time anticipated.

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

For the week ended May 2: Markets for old potatoes closed generally dull and weak, although northern stock in Chicago recovered somewhat from the slump of a week ago. Florida Spaulding Rose 50¢ to $1.00 lower at $4.50 to $5.50 per barrel in leading markets; $3.75 f. o. b. Hastings. Strawberries were in moderated demand at lower prices. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, about steady at $4 to $5.50 per six basket crate. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions advanced to $2.25 to $2.50 per crate in consuming centers. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage weaker at 75 to 90¢ per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. Louisiana and Alabama stock steady at $2 to $2.25 per barrel crate in city markets; slightly stronger at $1.00 f. o. b. Mobile.

In eastern wholesale fresh meat markets beef is weak to 50¢ lower; veal $1 to $1.50 down; lamb $1 lower, mutton $1 higher and light pork loins $3 to $5 lower with heavies $3 down. May 2 prices good grade meats: Beef $15 to $16.50; veal $11 to $17; lamb $22 to $25; mutton $16 to $18; light pork loins $20 to $24; heavies $15 to $19.

Grain market firm. Wheat futures 10 to 11 cents higher than week ago on stronger foreign markets and private reports indicating reduction in winter wheat crop. Deliveries on May contracts light. Cash wheat draggy at Minneapolis. Corn futures about 2 to 2 1/2¢ higher than week ago with strength in wheat but cash market not following full advance. Oats higher with corn. Large amounts of corn and oats delivered on May contracts.

Butter markets about steady after sharp decline of about 3¢ earlier in week. Foreign markets weaker, but not to the point of making imports probable. Closing prices on 92 score: New York 42; Chicago 39 1/2¢; Philadelphia 43¢; Boston 43 1/2¢.

Cheese markets continue dull and listless. Closing prices on Wisconsin primary markets May1: Single Daisies 21 1/2¢; Double Daisies 21 1/4¢; Longhorns 21 3/4¢; Square Prints 21 3/4¢.

Average prices of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 34 points, during week, closing at 24.35¢ per lb. New York future contracts declined 29 points, closing at 23.91¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 2,	May 1,	May 2, 1924
20 Industrials	121.96	121.10	91.68
20 R. R. stocks	97.08	96.56	81.48

(Wall St. Jour., May 4.)

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DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. XVII, No. 30 Section 1 May 5, 1925.

THE SECRETARY RESIGNS COLLEGE PRESIDENCY

A Topeka dispatch to the press to-day states that the State board of administration May 4 accepted the resignation of Secretary of Agriculture Jardine as president of the Kansas State College of Agriculture and appointed Dr. D. F. Farrell to succeed him.

NORTH DAKOTA GRAIN ACT

According to the Washington Post to-day, the North Dakota grain grading act was declared invalid and unconstitutional yesterday by the Supreme Court. Justice Van Devanter, in delivering the decision, said the right to buy grain in interstate commerce was not a State-given right, but is a common right such as no State could fetter with conditions.

LUMBER INDUSTRY OF SOUTH

A New Orleans dispatch to the press of May 5 says: "The cypress and the hardwood industry will be a thing of the past in Louisiana within ten or fifteen years, and the pine industry of the South will also be a thing of the past, if conservation and reforestation are not better followed. So thinks James D. Lacey, of the company bearing his name, with headquarters in Montreal, Chicago, New York and Seattle. Mr. Lacey has followed the lumber business for forty-five years; he has been in lumbering operations from the Great Lakes to Brazil."

MEAT PACKER SCHOLARSHIPS

The Institute of American Meat Packers announces that six scholarships for senior college and university students and graduate students of proven ability, who wish to specialize in the study of meat packing subjects as a means of fitting themselves to enter some administrative or technical department of the packing industry, have been established in the Institute of Meat Packing at the University of Chicago by the American meat packing industry, according to an announcement made May 4 by Oscar G. Mayer of Chicago, president of the Institute of American Meat Packers. Applications for these scholarships, which amount to $500 each, will be received from graduates of any university, agricultural college, or school of business, the announcement states. The Institute of Meat Packing is administered at the University of Chicago by the University and the Institute of American Meat Packers in cooperation. "The plan of the Institute of Meat Packing", Mr. Mayer's announcement continues, "is to provide for young men who expect to enter the packing industry, or who are already employed in the industry, a thorough training in the operations and business methods of the packing industry through four-year residence day courses, evening classes and correspondence courses. Packing-house executives and the officials of the Institute of Meat Packing are working out plans for the effective utilization in the industry of the men who complete these courses."

Section 2

Artificial Silk

Commerce Monthly for May contains an extensive article on "Developments in the Artificial Silk Situation," which describes the various processes evolved for the manufacture of artificial silk, and presents a comprehensive review of the industry here and abroad. It says: "From a position of inconsequence, not to say of actual derision, in the textile trade twenty years ago the artificial silk industry has assumed an enviable role, its annual output at present running well over 100,000,000 pounds. As production of yarn has expanded, markets for the new textile have been broadening until to-day an almost insatiable demand taxes the now greatly enlarged facilities here and abroad. Enlargements of existing plants and the construction of additional units are actively under way, several estimates of the probable outturn this year totaling above 150,000,000 pounds or double the crop of real silk. In certain centers machinery is being run night and day in an attempt to keep abreast of the demand."

Cotton Acreage

A New Orleans dispatch to the press of May 4 says: "That the cotton acreage this year will show an increase is accepted generally as certain. It seems to be the intention of farmers everywhere to increase their acreage and to endeavor by the use of fertilizers to secure the best possible yields. The private authorities that have so far issued estimates have all agreed that acreage will be increased, and the extent of the increase is variously estimated at from 4 to 6.3 per cent. It may be signified that most of these estimates were made before the drought in Texas had been effectually broken."

Finland Trade Treaty

A favored nation agreement between the United States and Finland, covering commercial transactions, customs duties and other subjects relating to commerce, was effected May 2 through an exchange of notes by Secretary Kellogg and A. L. Astrom, Minister of Finland. Initial provisions of the arrangement become operative May 17. (Press, May 4.)

Foreign Trade

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for May 4 says: "Exports from the United States in March, as announced by the Department of Commerce, were valued at $453,434,000 against $339,756,000 a year ago. Imports also increased considerably, being $385,487,000 compared with $320,482,000 in March, 1924. Taking the total figures for the first nine months of the fiscal year--July 1 to March 31--the report shows an increasing capacity of other people for our goods as well as the ability to dispose of more of their own products in our markets to mutual advantage..... Our exports of crude materials represent in great measure the exports of cotton. In this current nine months period the United States shipped something more than 11,316,000 bales of cotton where a year ago it shipped 9,509,000. Raw cotton means employment, wages, purchasing power and, ultimately, the finished goods mean a demand for other manufactures. The heavy shipments of cotton as well as of other raw materials and our own large imports of raw materials can not fail to give broad encouragement. A worldwide

return to the gold standard should result in still further improvement in international trade, and our business, now 50 per cent larger in volume than before the war, has scope for further increase

Grain Speculation

The Northwestern Miller for April 29 says: "The invitation to conference on the subject of inordinate grain speculation extended by millers to boards of trade not only speaks for the milling industry but accurately reflects public sentiment. In the reply of the grain exchanges, and more particularly in the spirit of cooperation shown by the Chicago Board of Trade, will be demonstrated the sincerity or lack of it in the expressed disapproval of those organizations for the violence of price fluctuations of the past several weeks. In the present situation, a stand pat attitude will mean that sooner or later the whole structure of futures trading must come to grief. The chief difficulty in bringing about measures of reform in the grain markets is the one least frequently mentioned. Very simply, it is that a large proportion to a lesser extent of other exchanges, is primarily interested in encouraging public speculation. This is merely a case of where the treasure is there the heart is also. Fluctuations are created by outside gambling in grain, and outside gambling is stimulated by violent fluctuations in prices. Cause and effect change positions with lightning-like rapidity, and each change pays a commission."

Horses and Mules

Sioux City Live Stock Record for April 29 says: "An 'acute shortage' of horses and mules within five years unless breeding increases--that is the prediction of the Department of Agriculture, based on nearly 26,000 reports from farmers, giving ages of all horses and mules on their farms. It is figured that 43 per cent of the horses and 31.6 per cent of the mules are over 10 years old. Five years from now the number of horses will be only 66 per cent of the present number and the number of mules 74 per cent, unless production increases, says the Chicago Drovers Journal. Such information is not new, though it has never before been presented in such detail, nor based on such a large number of reports. What farmers will do about it rests entirely with them. Some will take the chance that horses will be on a paying basis by the time a colt crop started now is ready to market; others, and probably the majority, will take one look at the past ten years, and another look at the increases in trucks and tractors, and decide against colt production. It is one of those things that each individual farmer can best decide for himself after he has exposed himself to all the reliable information available."

Linseed Oil Duty

The Journal of Commerce for May 4 says: "Prospects for a reduction in the duty on linseed oil have been brightened by the action of President Coolidge in referring the report of the Tariff Commission to the Agricultural Department, according to John B. Gordon, representative of the Bureau of Raw Materials for American Vegetable Oils and Fats Industries, the applicants for the change in the rate. He takes the position that Secretary

Jardine will see no objection to a lower rate on linseed oil. In other quarters, however, the view is expressed that a report from the Agriculture Department withholding objection to a lower rate of duty on linseed oil would be highly unexpected. It is recalled that several months ago Mr. Jardine declared that he would oppose any change in the rate of duty on linseed oil which might produce any difficulties for domestic flaxseed farmers. In some quarters it is suggested that the Agricultural Department would prefer to leave the rate unchanged rather than risk later developments unfair to the farming interests. Mr. Gordon, on the other hand, contends that the compensatory duty on flaxseed will furnish ample protection to the farmers."

Near East Agricultural Schools

The press May 4 states that three agricultural schools will be established in Russian Armenia, Palestine and Greece in connection with the Near East relief's orphanage program, the agricultural committee of the organization, of which Senator Capper is chairman, announced May 3. The annual expense of these schools will be $250,000.

Potash Price

A Cologne dispatch to the press of May 4 states that an agreement between the German and Alsatian producers of potash to fix world prices and force the American farmer to pay higher rates for artificial fertilizer will be signed this week in Paris. The agreement will be signed at the German embassy, Paris. The most important part of the agreement, as far as America is concerned, is that the American market is divided, 70 per cent for the German and 30 per cent for the Alsatian producers of potash.

Rubber

Herbert N. Casson, writing from London to The Philadelphia Ledger for May 4, says: Following the slump of several years ago rubber has made a dramatic recovery. Consumption has overtaken production. The fact is that there is not enough rubber in London to keep the world going for ten days. London stocks have steadily dwindled. A year ago there were 62,000 tons. Two years ago there were 78,000 tons. To-day there are only 16,000 tons. Half of this small stock is already sold and the remainder is of poor quality. For the first time in years the rubber market is empty. There is virtually no first-class rubber for sale. If two or three ships on their way to London from Malaysia were to be wrecked or delayed by storms, the price of rubber would rise to 60 or 70 cents a pound in a day. Such is the present situation in the rubber trade. It is full of explosive possibilities. There is certain to be a shortage and there will probably be a scramble for supplies in May and June, as most American buyers have been buying from hand to mouth the last two years. This recovery in rubber is due, say the English, to the Stevenson Restriction Scheme, which was put into operation about three years ago. When this was started rubber was selling at 14 cents a pound, and going lower. To-day it is selling at 44 cents and going higher. Naturally, the English rubber producers regard the scheme as a brilliant success..... The cost of producing

rubber has been steadily rising. It is now not less than 20 cents a pound. To develop a rubber plantation requires six or seven years and the cost averages about $250 an acre....."

Southern Resources

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for May 1 says: "The great natural riches of the South in cheap water power for manufacturing purposes--in coal, ore, oil and timber--are a solid foundation upon which to erect an industrial superstructure, and ambitious beginnings have already been made. The iron and steel production of the South is as yet a small percentage of total output for the country as a whole, but the possibilities of expansion are great. Six Southern States reported 36 per cent of the entire value of petroleum products in 1921. A flourishing furniture industry utilizes the products of southern hardwood forests. It is not so much that which has been accomplished as that which is in process or in prospect that gives food for thought. The South is definitely embarked upon a new era of industrialization which means a growth of capital and of wealth."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in The Outlook for May 6 says: "Secretary of Agriculture Jardine, in his radio address for American Forestry Week, told his audience of millions that deforestation is moving four times as fast as reforestation--in effect, that for every baby tree given a start in life four mature trees are slaughtered. Secretary Jardine is the official head of forestry efforts in the United States. The Forest Servcie is one of the bureaus of his great department.....On the Secretary of Agriculture, on Mr. Jardine and his successors, will continue to rest the responsibility for insuring the future of the United States against timber shortage. It is good to know that there is in that office a man who appreciates the gravity of the responsibility. His address furnishes good reason for believing that he realizes the paramount importance of reforestation--of bringing about a reform in forestry methods which will start at least one baby tree toward maturity for every mature tree cut for the lumber or fuel it contains. It may be that National Forests even when they are supplemented by State and municipal forests can never be made to grow enough trees to take the place of all those that are cut. Indeed, it is not desirable that all of our timber supply should be in public forest reservations. The farm wood lot should continue, as it always has been one of the largest sources of our timber supply. Only thus can anything like an even distribution of timber throughout the country ever be restored. Only thus can the beauty and the utility of our countrysides be maintained. Reforestation, in the National Forests, in State and municipal forests, in the scattered woodlands of the farms-- there lies the paramount duty of the profession of forestry. Only the duty of protecting existing forests from fire and their other enemies is comparable with it."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 4: Chicago hog prices closed at $11.45 for the top and $11.25 to $11.40 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.25 to $10.75; butcher cows and heifers $4.50 to $10.75; feeder steers $5.90 to $9; light and medium weight veal calves $7 to $10.25; fat lambs $12 to $13.85; yearlings $8.50 to $11.50; fat ewes $5 to $8.50.

Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes 50¢ to $1.00 lower at $4.50 to $5.50 per barrel to jobbers in terminal markets; $3.75 f. o. b. Hastings. Texas Louisiana sacked Bliss Triumphs weaker at $3 to $3.2 per 100 pounds in the Middle West. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage ranged $1.25 to $2.00 per barrel crate. Yellow Bermuda onions $2.35 to $2.75 per crate in consuming centers; mostly $1.75 f.o.b. North Carolina various varieties of strawberries 15¢ to 18¢ quart basus in eastern cities. Virginia, Norfolk section, Missionarys $4.50 to $5.25 per 32-quart crate in Philadelphia.

Grain prices quoted May 4: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.56 to $1.86; No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.91 to $1.96; Kansas City $1.72 to $1.78. No. 2 hard winter Chicago $1.64; St. Louis $1.65 to $1.66; Kansas City $1.60 to $1.67. No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.03 to $1.04; Minneapolis 94 3/4 to 97 3/4¢; No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.01 to $1.02 1/2; No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.11 to $1.12; St. Louis $1.13; Kansas City $1.07 1/2 to $1.08 1/2 No. 3 yellow cofn Chicago $1.04 1/2 to $1.06 1/2; Minneapolis $1.00 1/4 to $1.02 3/4. No. 2 white corn St. Louis $1.09 1/2 to $1.10; Kansas City $1.06 to $1.06 1/2; No. 3 white corn Chicago $1.03 to $1.05 ½; No. 3 white oats Chicago 41 1/2 to 45¢; Minneapolis 40¢ to 40 1/2¢; St. Louis 46 to 47¢; Kansas City 45 1/2¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 42¢; Chicago 40¢; Philadelphia 43¢; Boston 43¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 22 points, closing at 24.13¢ per pound. New York May future contracts down 24 points, closing at 23.67¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 4,	May 2,	May 3, 1924.
20 Industrials	122.86	121.96	92.23
20 R. R. stocks	97.75	97.08	81.58

(Wall St. Jour., May 5.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XVII, No. 31 Section 1 May 6, 1925.

GRAIN MANIPULATION CHARGES

Glenn Griswold, Chicago correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, in to-day's issue says: "A situation is developing in the Chicago Board of Trade that for the present may not seem conducive to the health of that institution, but in the end may solve one of the oldest and most perplexing problems of the grain trade. As a manifestation of that development, we have George E. Marcy, Emanuel F. Rosenbaum, and other members of the board of managers of the Grain Marketing Company, issuing public statements charging manipulation in the various grains. George E. Marcy was once head of the Armour Grain Company, and Emanuel F. Rosenbaum was the active manager of the grain firm bearing his family name. These two were the greatest cash grain houses in the world and they have become a part of the cooperative marketing company formed here some time ago. For either of these men to have issued a public statement charging market manipulation a year ago would have been a sensation. For each of them to have issued statements on consecutive days would have been a scandal. As things stand these charges and counter-charges are interesting but not scandalous. They seem to be natural developments in a policy which promises that soon the public shall know all of the facts having to do with the movement of grain and the course of the futures market....."

GRAIN CORNER DENIED

A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day states that reports published in Chicago that attempts were being made to corner the May corn and rye markets were devoid of corroboratory evidence, Frank L. Carey, president of the Chicago Board of Trade, said yesterday. "If we get such evidence, now or at any time, the board will take whatever action will be necessary," he said. "Let those who are saying they have the evidence tell us about it so that we may know what it is. So far there is absolutely none that we know of."

THE COST OF GOVERNMENT

An editorial in The Washington Post to-day says: "Recent calculation of the distribution of the Federal revenue presents an interesting analysis of the demands on the taxpayer. Out of every $100 paid into the Treasury, Congress takes 40 cents; the White House 10 cents, and independent offices, $13.49. The Department of Agriculture draws $4.20; the Department of Interior, $9; the Department of Justice, 60 cents; the Department of Labor, 20 cents; the Navy Department, $9.50; the War Department, $10.10; the Department of Commerce, 70 cents, and the Treasury itself, $8.10. The Panama Canal requires 20 cents; the District of Columbia, 70 cents; subscription to capital stock in the Federal Intermediate Credit banks, 30 cents; interest on the public debt, $28.20; premium on the public debt, 10 cents; retirement of the public debt, $13.50; miscellaneous and special appropriations, 70 cents. Here is presented in concise form that vague, but much discussed item, 'the cost of Government,' From a study of the different values assigned therein, the average citizen can gain a clearer conception, perhaps, of the requirements of the National Government as they affect him than by any other method.."

Section 2

American Institute of Cooperation

It is announced to-day that some of the world's most distinguished authorities will participate in the first session of the American Institute of Cooperation which will be held at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, July 20 to August 15. This announcement was coupled with the statement that both Secretary of Agriculture William M. Jardine and Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover will speak during the opening week. Governor Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania and former Governor Frank O. Lowden of Illinois are also among the noted persons expected to discuss phases of the cooperative movement. Mr. Lowden has taken an active interest in matters cooperative during the past few years and Governor Pinchot has become the American source of information upon the cooperative utilization of power by farmers and small industrial consumers. Letters indorsing the project from Secretaries Jardine and Hoover were made public today by Charles W. Holman secretary of the institute. "These letters" said he, "show the active interest which is being taken in the promotion of the educational aspects of the movement by both of our Cabinet officers whose work brings them most closely in contact with the cooperative movement." The list of speakers further include the names of Sir Horace Plunkett, the veteran of Irish cooperation; Karl Walter of London, who has made a recent survey of the cooperative movement in the British colonies, who will lecture upon the progress and plans of the movement in the British Empire; Prof. C. R. Fay of the University of Toronto, (Canada) a careful student of European cooperation and author of work upon the subject. How Denmark has developed her cooperative creameries, bacon factories and cooperative buying of supplies will be told in a series of lectures by Prof. O. H. Larson of the Royal Agricultural College, Copenhagen.

British Immigration to Australia

An editorial in The American Review of Reviews for May says: "The (British) Colonial Office, under Mr. Amery, is continuing to devote its energies to the working out of its immigration projects. On April 9, it announced the final signature of the long-pending plan for sending British families to Australia, nearly half a million to be thus transferred within the coming ten years. Australia undertakes to spend nearly $200,000,000 in preparing lands for settlers to be sold to the colonists on very easy terms, while the Imperial Government is to provide for transportation costs and also to advance considerable sums of money, to be paid in instalments conditioned upon actual results..... The opening up of many millions of acres of new lands in Australia can be made successful only as the older and more populous regions of the world provide markets for exportable products. The British Empire could hardly afford to advance several thousand dollars for each family transplanted from the old country to raw Dominion lands unless upon reasonable assurance that such families could make gradual repayment. This,

however, must mean more and cheaper supplies of wheat, wool, mutton, beef, potatoes and other farm products, to compete with British farmers in their home markets. It must also mean such an increase of food exports as to lower the prices received by those Canadian and American farmers who have to find their own lands and supply their own capital. The rapid development of new lands is by no means lightening the burdens of agriculture in established communities and regions. The farmer is subjected to all sorts of remote and indirect competition. The opening up of lands in the warmer belts is producing consequences that will take us some time to comprehend. A few years ago, for instance, the banana was almost unknown, but now it forms an appreciable food item in the United States, and undoubtedly competes with apples, prunes, and other products."

Cotton Consumption and Supply

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for May 5 says: "In the year beginning August 1, 1924, cotton returned to its pre-war production and even considerably surpassed its average record. The consuming world should welcome this return joyfully. However, it is not yet certain that the return of King Cotton to its pre-war proportions is permanently established. Much can be said for and against the prospect. Reducing world production to standard bales of 475 pounds net, the Department of Agriculture says that in the past year world production of cotton was 24,700,000 bales. In the five years between 1913 and 1919 the average was 23,680,000. A number of small producing countries which before the war averaged a total of 375,000 bales in the current year produced 868,000 bales. This seems like a promise of steady, if slow, expansion in those new countries and helps support the claim that cotton has come back. Egypt has remained stationary. The production of China, which is so variable as to throw doubt on the accuracy of the figures, is 1,300,000 bales short of the average. Asiatic Russia, which before the war averaged almost 1,000,000 bales, now produces less than half a million. There is some prospect that Russia will gradually increase its crop. Losses sustained in some parts of the world were mostly made up this past year by India and the United States. Their total before the war averaged 16,600,000 bales and in the current year 18,700,000 bales. The return of cotton to its pre-war position depends in great part upon these two countries. The Indian production is far in excess of its pre-war average or anything produced since then. Extreme optimism could hardly hope that this increase is permanent....."

Cotton Production Report Asked

A proposal that a governmental commission be appointed to make an authoritative report on the whole question of active and potential cotton production both here and abroad, will be considered at the thirteenth annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, at Washington, May 20 to 22. This proposal will come before the annual meeting from the chamber's agricultural bureau as a direct result of a study of the trend of

cotton production in this country and abroad made by the bureau during the last year. This study, it is pointed out, should be supplemented by further detailed investigations by governmental agency. The inquiry of the chamber's agricultural bureau into the world cotton situation disclosed that a steady decline in production in the United States, accompanied by increase in price of the American staple, has been reflected in increasing activity on the part of foreign governments to develop potential cotton areas outside of America, as well as in a slowing down of demand for finished mill products. While it is not believed that there is any immediate danger that the United States will lose its position of dominance in the world cotton markets, yet the staff conducting the inquiry is convinced that the situation demands more aggressive efforts to stabilize production in this country. "One great question which confronts the American cotton industry to-day," the agricultural bureau says, "is to what extent the fluctuations in production of raw cotton in this country has encouraged foreign governments to seek a more stable supply at a lower price through supplies produced in relatively new cotton areas overseas. Available data touching on the extent of overseas production, active and potential, of necessity are drawn from reports published by foreign governments. Much of this information is fragmentary as it does not present a clear picture of the true situation. We need definite facts and figures which will indicate the exact status of cotton production in this country and the possibilities of stabilizing our annual production both as to quantity and price as well as similar data covering foreign activities in this field." (Cham. of Com. of U. S. Statement, May 6.)

Wheat and Speculation

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for May 5 says: "Efforts to explain the spectacular movements of the prices of wheat futures in Chicago during the past six or eight months or more continue more or less unabated. The impression apparently has been gained, particularly among the farmers, that the rise and fall of wheat prices was a thing apart as it were, guided and controlled by mischievous agents who were bent upon knifing the farmer if that were possible. Such a view of the facts has, of course, nothing to warrant it. In the first place, except possibly to the degree that these higher prices caused the farmer to overextend his operations, it is difficult to see how he has been injured in any direct way at all. He has long ago sold all his wheat and, incidentally, got good prices for it. And in the second place, the antics of the wheat market were at bottom not greatly different from similar developments in the New York and other stock markets, to say nothing of commodities rather generally..... Wheat prices collapsed because they had previously become dangerously inflated, just as stock prices have collapsed for indentically the same reason. Commodity prices, while not moving through as wide a range, have acted in recent weeks in much the same manner and for the same reason. So far as

the wheat price situation is concerned there is not one whit more reason to hold a few professional speculators responsible for the situation than there is for taking a similar attitude toward similarly behaving groups in stock market circles. In both cases the losers are to be found, not among the farmers as such, but among the rank and file of sporadic speculators in the country usually spoken of in speculative circles as 'the public'. These losers have only themselves to blame."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in The New York Times of May 4 says: "Are daffodils undesirable aliens, to be excluded without even the benefit of the quota provisions made in behalf of human immigrants? Many persons who wish to continue the practice of importing flowering bulbs from Holland and France claim that no possible damage can come from their admission. The Federal Board of Horticulture, however, has declared that there must be a complete prohibition on the importation of these bulbs and certain flowers and fruit trees beginning January 1 next. The reason given for this decision is that the bulbs are the potential bearers of pernicious plant pests. Opponents of the measure hint that it was introduced through the instigation of the growers of native bulbs, who wish thereby to win over that part of the bulb trade that has formerly been cared for by the European houses. Whether or not the exclusion measure is justified should be ascertainable by a simple scientific investigation. In recent years many highly destructive pests have been introduced from foreign lands. For some reason plant diseases which may be comparatively harmless in one country will become virulent and highly destuctive in another. The chestnut blight is a case in point..... The chairman of the Federal Board of Horticulture is quoted as saying that the experts have reached the conclusion that the only possible solution of the problem 'is the policy of practical exclusion of all plant stock not absolutely essential to the horticultural, floricultural and forestry needs of the United States.' It is evidently as a result of the application of this general principle that the flowering bulbs henceforth are to be excluded, as special care has always been taken to avoid shipping diseased specimens, and the horticulturists in Europe are solicitous for their own stocks. It should be possible, however, to make a thorough study of imported bulbs and their potential diseases. They have been permitted to come into the country during the last decade or more, so that it should not be hard to determine whether or not they harbor pests. If they are found guilty, no one can object to their being kept out. With so many visible examples of the damage done by diseases of alien origin, there can be no question that importation of plants should be rigidly prohibited if there is any suspicion that they may be infected."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 5: Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes firm in New York City at $4.75 to $5.25 per barrel, ranging $5 to $5.75 most other markets, but lower in Philadelphia. Florida fancy count tomatoes, original six-basket carriers, mostly $4.50 to $5.50 in East; repacked stock lower in Chicago at $6 to $6.50. Alabama barrel crates of cabbage $1.25 f.o.b. Mobile section; $2.00 to $2.75 terminal markets. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions, U. S. No. 1 ranged $2.50 to $3.00 per crate, most markets; $2 f.o.b North Carolina Klondike strawberries 20 to 23¢ quart basis in New York and Boston; 32-quart crates $6.50 to $7.50 Philadelphia, mostly $4 to $4.50 cash to growers.

Chicago hog prices closed at $11.45 for the top; bulk of sales $11.25 to $11.45; medium and good beef steers $8.40 to $10.85; butcher cows and heifers $4.50 to $10.75; feeder steers $5.90 to $9; light and medium weight veal calves $7 to $10.25; fat lambs $12 to $14; spring lambs $14.50 to $17.25; yearlings $8.50 to $11.50 and fat ewes $5 to $8.50.

Grain prices quoted May 5: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.54 to $1.80. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.88 to $1.94; Kansas City $1.70 to $1.77. No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.66; Kansas City $1.60 to $1.66; No. 4 hard winter Chicago $1.57. No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.05; Minneapolis 98 to $1.00. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.11 1/2 to $1.12; St. Louis $1.13 1/2; Kansas City $1.08 to $1.11. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.07 1/2 to $1.09 1/2; Minneapolis $1.03 to $1.05. No. 2 white corn St. Louis $1.12 to $1.12 1/2; Kansas City $1.06 1/2 to $1.07. No. 3 white corn Chicago $1.06 1/2. No. 3 white oats Chicago 43 to 46¢; Minneapolis 40 7/8 to 41 3/8¢; St. Louis 46 to 47 1/2¢; Kansas City 44 1/2 to 45¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 15 points, closing at 23.98¢ per lb. New York May future contracts down 8 points, closing at 23.59¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 5,	May 4,	May 5, 1924.
20 Industrials	123.63	122.86	92.23
20 R. R. stocks	97.66	97.75	81.58

(Wall St. Jour., May 6.)

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Vol. XVII, No. 32 Section 1 May 7, 1925.

THE PRESIDENT TO ASK FURTHER EXPENDITURE CUT

The press to-day states that the drive to get the national budget of Government expenditures for all purposes below the $3,000,000,000 mark has been started again by the President and the Budget Bureau. This goal may be approached during the fiscal year 1925-26, and officials appear confident that it will be attained not later than during the fiscal year 1926-27. This latest Coolidge economy drive will be officially launched at the meeeting of the Government department heads on June 22.

CHICAGO TRADE BOARD INQUIRY

A Chicago Associated Press dispatch to-day states that the Chicago Board of Trade has authorized an inquiry by a special committee into published statements attributed to George E. Marcy, chairman, and E. F. Rosenbaum, member of the board of managers of the Grain Marketing Company. In a statement issued in Washington and published in las Sunday's newspapers Mr. Marcy declared that the depression in grain prices last fall and winter was caused by the huge holding of speculators and that but for the artificial technical condition development through speculative manipulations conditions had warranted a high price level for all grains this year. One speculative account held such an enormous line of grain as "to constitute a menace," and the law of supply and demand has not been allowed unrestricted play, Mr. Marcy asserted in the statement. The Board of Trade instructed President F. L. Carey to appoint a special committee to call in Messrs. Marcy and Rosenbaum, It also was understood that President Carey had asked the Federal Grain Futurés supervisor to investigate the charges and take necessary action to determine whether the statements were founded or unfounded, or whether there was any intent to affect the market. Dr. J. W. T. Duvel, Federal Grain Futures Supervisor at Chicago, said last night that as long as the Board of Trade was going to conduct an investigation his department would take no action, for the present at least. He said that while the board's inquiry was on his department would not investigate unless a new circumstance arose.

WOOL SALES

A London dispatch to the press of May 7 states that the wool auctions were well attended May 6 and offerings amounted to 9,186 bales. A good selection met with a poor demand, and withdrawals were again heavy. American and Continental buyers are holding off.

A Brisbane, Australia, dispatch says the local wool sales have been abandoned, because of the collapse of prices in the English wool market.

POTASH SALES

A Berlin dispatch to the press of May 6 reports that the sales of the German potash syndicate for the first four months of 1923 totaled 580,000 tons. This is more than double the amount marketed during the same period last year.

A Paris dispatch states that representatives of German potash interests arrived at Paris May 5 to open negiotations with representatives of the Alsatian Potash Trading Company for future marketing arrangements.

Section 2

Capper on Farm Relief

The press of May 6 says: "Efforts to enact a cooperative marketing bill will be renewed at the next session of Congress Senator Capper, chairman of the farm bloc, predicted May 5 after a conference with President Coolidge. Mr. Capper said the President's agricultural commission was expected to meet again in the fall with a view to drawing up in new form its recommendations for farm relief."

Connecticut Valley Tobacco Industry

An editorial in New England Homestead for April 25 says: "The next month will be a vital period in the history of the Connecticut Valley tobacco industry..... The big question is whether growers wish to continue the association for another five years or whether they rather go back to the old system of individual dickering and discouraging returns. It doesn't seem possible that any material number of farmers will fail to stand behind their organization. While some details have not exactly suited growers, the big fact remains that as a whole the association has been ably managed and accomplished great results. ..... There are plenty of examples indicating what a stabilizing influence the association has had on the market. Recent weeks have shown to non-members the licking they may get from buyers when the association doesn't handle the crop..... The confidence displayed by the bankers of the Connecticut Valley at the Hartford meeting last week is reassuring. A few farmers have entirely overlooked some phases of the financing essentials. Complaint has been made of bankers' requirements relative to loan values. Such farmers forget that banks would not prosper long if they ignored ordinary business principles. The farmer himself will not, or should not, loan money without definite protection from start to finish."

Cream Grading

An editorial in Butter, Cheese and Egg Journal for April 29 says: "Creamerymen who enter into cream grading movements with their competitors, hoping to in some way get along without actually grading cream, have ruined more than one movement. These fellows believe in grading cream and paying strictly according to quality as long as the other fellow does it. They really want to do it, too, but they don't want to lose any business in order to do it. If anyone is to lose business as a result of a cream grading movement, they want their competitors to suffer the loss. In some sections creamerymen work through their associations to promote a cream grading campaign. Such movements are all right. We haven't a word to say against them, but we have seen these cream grading movements founder on the rocks of selfishness more than once. They have been used to good advantage in getting an advantage over competition, but not to really improve the quality of cream. While such motives actuate the men who are to carry out a system of grading, it is unreasonable to expect cream grading to be a success. Cream grading and paying strictly on grade should require nothing except common sense to guarantee its success. True, it is discouraging to try it

out when competitors follow the opposite course, but it can be done successfully just the same. Hundreds of creamery managers the country over have proved this as true. It's fine if you can get your competitors to join with you to grade cream, but if they will not do it, and join you whole-heartedly, you had better go it alone. Some of these days cream is going to be bought that way and no other. The creameryman who anticipates that time is going to be just that far ahead of competition."

Farm Headquarters

An editorial in The Orange Judd Illinois Farmer for May 1 says: "For half a dozen years the project of a farm headquarters building at Chicago has been talked of, and until recently it has been mostly conversation. Last week, however, it was announced not as a possibility but as a fact. The place has been selected. The plans have been drawn, under the supervision of one of the largest firms in the world. A vast number of applications for office and display space already have been received, and within a few months the construction will be well under way. Chicago was built by agriculture, and the extent of its interests that are intimately related to the farm is enormous. Everything from insect powder to tractors, cream separators to radio sets, is to be found here. They are scattered in all parts of this great city, and if you should start out to look for them all it would be an endless job."

An editorial in The Prairie Farmer for May 2 says: "A great building devoted primarily to the uses of agriculture and allied industries will be built in Chicago in the near future, if present plans go through. This building will be twice as large as the largest modern building in the world. It will contain 60 acres of floor space. One of the lower floors will be equipped to handle the National Dairy Show, poultry shows, and other similar events. On another floor will be a convention hall which will seat 25,000 people. The remainder of the building will provide office and other space for farm organizations, breed associations, and other industries relating to agriculture. The building, which is to be located southeast of Michigan Boulevard and the Chicago River, will cost approximately 35 million dollars. It will be built, financed and managed by Whiting and Company, who built the new Furniture Mart at Chicago. The building will be financed through regular business channels. There will be no stock-selling campaign among farmers or farm organizations. At a meeting of 100 agricultural leaders at Chicago April 24, Lawrence Whiting explained the proposed building in detail..... The erection of a great agricultural building at Chicago, the capital of agricultural America, will be a monument to this great fundamental industry, and one which every farmer will be glad to see pushed to completion."

Meat Prices

Moderate declines in the wholesale prices of virtually all meats and of most livestock characterized the American meat trade during the month just closed, according to a review of the meat and livestock situation issued May 4 by the Institute of American Meat

Packers "Hog prices at Chicago, although showing some decline for the month as a whole, still are more than 60 per cent. higher than they were a year ago," the institute's statement continues. "Fresh pork and smoked meats have declined somewhat from the higher levels reached during March, following the spectacular advance which occurred in the hog market, and the demand is improving. Supplies of beef and lamb were somewhat excessive relative to demand, prices of these products declined, and the trade generally was unsatifactory to packers. The export trade has remained very quiet."

Packers' Decree

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for May 6 says: "Reading of the formal order suspending in its entirety the so-called 'Packers' Consent Decree' shows that the courts of the District of Columbia have practically withdrawn all restraint growing out of the former decree. So far as can be judged there is no reason why the packers should not go into the grocery business just as fully and freely as if this long drawn controversy had never occurred. It is a mistake, however, to suppose that the grocery business has been 'thrown open' to the packers by this decision. What has been done has been simply to put the situation back to the point it had reached when the decree was ordered. The decree itself was the outgrowth of a compromise whereby the packers by entering into this agreement obtained release from anti-trust proceedings which were threatening, as well as from a more drastic form of congressional regulation than that which has since been enacted. To-day the packers are struggling with the Government over the question how widely they may extend the general organization of their business and yet keep within the interpretation of the packers' act which the Department of Agriculture is enforcing."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in The New York Herald-Tribune for May 4 says: "The Federal Horticultural Board, which by its Quarantine 37 lets plants enter the United States only by special indulgence, is obviously astonished that there should be such commotion over the outlawing of narcissus bulbs. It points out that tulips and some other bulbs are still to be admitted. The board seems astonished at its moderation in permitting any plants to be brought in for sale in view of its ultimate program, if expressions emanating from it have meant anything, of barring this trade in its entirety. Why so much fuss over the narcissus? It was decided three years ago that foreign narcissus bulbs were potentially too pestiferous to be tolerated. That being so, it would have been logical for the board to declare an immediate quarantine. Instead, it granted three years of grace in order that American growers might establish this floral industry on home soil. It must be an admirable pest that can conveniently be put up with for any length of time. The plant quarantine act certainly proposed prompt action, if prohibitive measures were to be taken at all. As a matter of fact, the insects

to which the narcissus plays host have already obtained a firm foothold in the United States. The board's quarantine is not an emergency regulation. It is part of that bureau's scheme of stopping imports in its benevolent intent of serving as the guardian and mentor of American horticulture.....It is futile to argue that these sweeping permanent embargoes are essential for safety. The Horticultural Board kept out new pests successfully before it conceived the notion of blanket embargoes and set out on its ambitious plan of making this country independent of foreign supplies."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 6: Chicago hog prices closed at $11.70 for the top and $11.45 to $11.65 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $11.25; butcher cows and heifers $4.65 to $11.25; feeder steers $5.90 to $9; light and medium weight veal calves $7 to $10.25.

New York sacked Round White potatoes firm at 85¢ to $1.05 per 100 pounds in eastern cities and northern stock up 20¢ in Chicago at 80¢ to 95¢, carlot sales. North Carolina Klondike strawberries ranged 18¢ to 23¢ quart basis in eastern cities; $3 to $5.50 per 32-quart crate to growers at Chadbourn. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, original six-basket carriers, steady to firm at $4.50 to $5.50 in eastern markets; repacked stock lower in Chicago at $6 to $6.50. North and South Carolina cabbage pointed type brought $2 to $2.25 per barrel crate in the East. Alabama stock $1.25 f. o. b. Mobile and $2 to $2.75 in city markets.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 42¢; Chicago 39 1/2¢; Philadelphia 43¢; Boston 43¢.

Grain prices quoted May 6: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.62 1/2 to $1.81 1/2. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.90 to $1.97; Kansas City $1.74 to $1.81. No. 4 red winter Chicago $1.70. No. 2 hard winter Kansas City $1.63 to $1.73; No. 1 hard winter St. Louis $1.71; No. 4 hard winter Chicago $1.58 1/2. No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.07 to $1.07 1/2; No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.08; Minneapolis $1.03 1/2 to $1.05 1/2. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.14 1/2 to $1.14 3/4; St. Louis $1.16 to $1.16 1/2; Kansas City $1.12. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.08 1/2 to $1.11 1/2; Minneapolis $1.08 1/2 to $1.10 1/2. No. 2 white corn St. Louis $1.15 1/2; Kansas City $1.11; No. 3 white corn Chicago $1.11. No. 3 white oats Chicago 46 3/4 to 47¢; Minneapolis 41 7/8 to 42 3/8¢; St. Louis 48¢; Kansas City 46 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 30 points, closing at 23.68¢ per lb. New York May future contracts down 34 points, closing at 23.25¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 6,	May 5,	May 6, 1924.
20 Industrials	124.32	123.63	92.24
20 R. R. stocks	97.65	97.66	81.71

(Wall St. Jour., May 7.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XVII, No. 33 Section 1 May 8, 1925.

POTASH AGREEMENT A Paris dispatch to the press to-day states that an understanding has been reached by the German potash interests and the French State potash mines of Alsace, whose representatives have been conferring at Paris. The agreement covers details of sale and distribution by the German and French companies. Special emphasis is laid on the fact that the accord covers "all countries," because "difficulties had arisen in the United States, where both the German and French companies had been working separately."

BULB RESTRICTION An editorial in The New York Times of May 8 says: "The Chairman of the Federal Horticultural Board has written to The Times to protest against the wide-spread belief that the Department of Agriculture will exclude all foreign bulbs after this year. He calls attention to a formal statement made last week 'that the department has never placed any limitation on the entry of tulips, hyacinths, crocuses, lilies and the lily of the valley, and these will remain, as in the past, open to unrestricted entry.' The new measures will apply primarily to the narcissus, owing to the fact that the department has found that many of this species recently imported have been diseased. He also protests against the use of the term 'embargo' in connection with the Government's action, preferring 'restriction,' and points out that even the 'restricted' bulbs can be imported for the introduction of new varieties, for seed stock for the purpose of establishing home production, and for any experimental, educational or scientific purpose." After quoting further from Doctor Marlatt's statement explaining the new restrictions, the editorial concludes: "It is the contention of those who are opposed to further restrictions that it is almost impossible in practice to develop as fine flowers from home-produced as from foreign bulbs. They hold that climatic and soil differences cause such marked changes in the locally developed varieties that they lose the particular qualities for which their ancestors were famous. In order to get the best results, they say, it is necessary to plant bulbs grown abroad. Many professional horticulturists, on the other hand, believe that these variations are due to inexperienced handling of the plants rather than to fundamental changes. But this is only a secondary aspect of the whole problem. The right to prohibit importation rests in the danger of infection. Whether such a restriction helps or hurts one or other class of horticulturists should have no weight in the decision as to what plants are to be banned."

CANADIAN GRAIN PLANTING Canadian farmers are actively preparing to seed to grains a larger area than usual this year, according to the Canadian Bank of Commerce of Toronto, which attributes the increase to the hope of farmers to be able to sell at reasonably profitable gains. Evidence of this activity is seen in the improved demand for implements and new parts, in a better demand for suitable farm horses and in the acquisition by successful farmers of more land.

Section 2

Agricultural Help

An editorial in The Country Gentleman for May 9 says: "Agriculture needs help. Every friend of the farmer has been shouting that loudly and constantly for almost five years. And it is true, agriculture does need help--needs it badly. What kind of help? There are many answers but no agreement. Secretary Jardine has declared flatly against all price-fixing and subsidies. He says farmers must help themselves if they are to get out of their difficulties. This seems like sound common sense and something farmers might be able to agree upon if they knew how to go about it. But they don't know. If they knew they wouldn't be in trouble. Obviously, then, there is nothing the Department of Agriculture can do that would be more appreciated than to tell farmers how to help themselves. That is exactly what the Department of Commerce has been doing for other industries--and doing very successfully. It has worked along two major lines: First, to reduce wastes in manufacturing and so reduce production costs; second, to help manufacturers find markets for their products..... Pooling of experiences is what it is called in the Department of Commerce. It is just as reasonable as pooling wheat or cotton or tobacco, and it works. There are now nearly seventy of these pooling-experiences committees working in the various industries. Their efforts are making available a mass of information for the use of industry that could not be obtained by any other method These committees are telling business men how to go about helping themselves. Their work has been particularly effective in marketing American products abroad. The same thing can be done in agriculture. A lot of the farmers' problems are business problems; why not draft big business men to sit in committees with farm leasers to study these matters? They would bring experience and special knowledge to bear on the economic riddles that are baffling many farmers. If the combined knowledge and experience of the country could be applied intelligently to any of our problems a solution could readily be found. It seems to be about the easiest way to show farmers how they can help themselves. If the department can point the way it will be doing a national service, and that is all any Government should attempt to do--point the way."

Butter Tariff

The Country Gentleman for May 9 says: "The Tariff Commission has recently made a study of the costs of producing butter in this country and abroad that forecasts an increase in the tariff on butter. The results of the investigation indicate that the farm cost of producing a pound of butterfat in the principal dairying regions of the United States averages 61.5 cents, compared with 36.28 cents in Denmark. Obviously a tariff of eight cents a pound is very little protection to the American dairyman. Any time the European market falls off the Danes can dump butter in over our tariff wall at a price that would be ruinous to domestic producers. In order to meet this competition only two courses are open--to cut our costs of production or to add a few more bricks to the top of the tariff wall. A few years ago farmers generally felt lukewarm

toward a protective tariff. To-day they are insisting on tariff protection for nearly all farm products, and as the years roll on they will be more insistent. In time to come the farmers of the United States will constitute a solid block of high protectionists....."

Farm Organizations

An editorial in Farm and Fireside for May says: "Farmers no longer constitute a majority of population. The last census revealed also that industry has finally exceeded agriculture in wealth. For this reason agriculture is going to have to fight harder and more ably in the future than in the past to maintain its rightful position in the scheme of things in this country. A century ago England decided to be an industrial nation, and has since maintained a national policy in the interest of industry rather than of agriculture. If the American farmer wants to be merely a convenience to American industry he can achieve that desire by letting events take their probable course. Unless we preserve and enhance the power of our own farm organizations, agriculture is in serious danger of being forced into an uncomfortable position. Three years ago the membership of the American Farm Bureau Federation was far greater than it is now! What we then thought might be a permanent determination for a united agriculture appears now not to have been a tide in that direction. It was only a wave. Fifty years ago a great farm organization movement sprang up as a protest against railroad and commercial abuses of farmers. It subsided almost as quickly as it arose. The history of that brief period is almost identical with the history of recent days. And then, for long years, agriculture spoke but feebly, while other interests flourished in wealth and strength unopposed, too often at the expense of the farms of America. It has yet to be demonstrated that farmers can stick together on a national scale to protect the common interests of all farmers. The virile farm groups of the future will be business organizations. They will be in politics only as other business is in politics. Prosperity is made in the market place, not in legislative halls. The mistakes farm organizations have made should be investments in experience from which future dividends will flow. Agriculture has advanced tremendously in production methods but lags in the business of selling its products and protecting its interests. So long as farmers get less for an hour of labor, for equal capital and equal use of intelligence, the battle must be kept up. The return from the soil must keep pace with the standard of living. When we win equality, we will still have to maintain our organized power to retain it. A farmer who withdraws his support now from his farm organization because it makes mistakes does about as fool a trick as a farmer who abandons his cornfield because weeds get a start."

Railroad Taxation in Kansas

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for May 6 says: "What is going on in Kansas between the State tax authorities and the railroads is a reminder that political railroad baiting is not wholly a thing of the past. It means, too, that the trebling of their taxes since 1913 is not the whole of the tax burden that is

laid upon the railroads, an accurate statement of which would include not only the moneys for which tax receipts are issued but in addition what the railroads are compelled to spend to ward off or minimize unjustifiable assessments. Last year the Kansas Tax Commission raised the assessed valuations of railroads within the State by $150,000,000. On a straight mileage basis and disregarding the difference in terminal and station property between the agricultural and industrial sections, this would mean an increase in the value of all railroads in the United States of about $3,750,000,000. It would be good news to railroad stockholders that the value of their property had so increased in a single year if the Commerce Commission could be convinced of the fact and would recognize it in rate making. Nothing of the sort happens. The commission and the railroads have spent more than $100,000,000 on a physical valuation which the Commerce Commission, rightly or wrongly, uses as a means of limiting revenues but which appears to have no meaning to State taxing bodies....."

Research

"Researching the Researcher" is the title of an article by Harry R. Wellman, professor of marketing, Amos Tuck School, Dartmouth College, in The Nation's Business for May. Professor Wellman says in part: "One of the executives of a large mail-order house, in the days gone by, wanted to learn how many families in North and South Dakota used cream separators. So the mail-order house started out a research troupe consisting of a chief and six or seven men. It made a research survey. Meantime, the executive got sick or went to Florida, or something of that nature, and the crew came back. They were put into an office to compile their report and make their findings. Someone found them two years afterward, totally forgotten. They had made report after report which had been carefully filed and never used; I suppose if times hadn't become hard, they would be there still. Some way, I like to think of them as still sitting there, with their beards growing down through their desks! Theirs not to reason why. Theirs but to write and die! At any rate, they did the job they were asked to do, a job that would have been useful if used. Right now, there's a whole new line of searchers who add their bit to the collection of useless statistics and facts, and, incidentally, of course, as do all the rest, add to the cost of doing business. Banks, publishers, individuals, associations, chambers of commerce, bureaus, boards of trade, schools, colleges, business schools and what not are busily collecting information and misinformation which they sell, give away or swap. And in the meantime the Departments of Commerce, Agriculture and others, keep up the steady work of collecting and making available basic facts for all business. Where will it end? Why doesn't it end? Granting that we as a Nation always ride a new idea to death, aren't we in at the death now?.... It is time for business to put away childish things and to attack the whole problem of research from the scientific point of view. Whether one bureau or another is used is not important. It is all important that one central bureau or clearing house be used and that it have the entire

confidence of business. It might be a national clearing house of facts relating to distribution, these facts to be furnished by trade associations, chambers of commerce, Government bureaus and others. Given the active support and confidence of business, a central bureau will establish special forms of data, useful to many--rather than to individual--business. It will reduce the present costs to manufacturers, associations, chambers of commerce, schools and other groups. In the end, such a bureau will generously assist in reducing our present costs of distributing because we will then be distributing to a known, chartable market and thus be enabled to eliminate many of the wastes now occurring because of the lack of proper market information. Sane research is an absolute necessity if we are to have sane, progressive business."

Wheat Report

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for May 6 says: "On Friday, May 8, the Department of Agriculture will issue its report on winter wheat and rye. Unless all indications are misunderstood the report should be one of the most bullish the department has issued on the May condition of wheat. The grain market places well deserved confidence in the estimates made by the leading crop experts in Chicago. Last week four of these experts put out estimates, idenpendently of each other, which closely approximated. The extremes ranged between 427,000,000 bushels to 454,000,000, the others, of course, being between those two. These compare with 590,000,000 bushels of winter wheat harvested last year, and 610,000,000 the average of past ten years. These estimates justified all that has been said here, and more, about abandonment. A month ago The Wall Street Journal said that the winter wheat abandonment might amount to 18 per cent. of the acreage seeded last autumn. The Snow estimate now puts it at 20.1 per cent. and the Murray figure is 21.2. Just what these figures mean can be seen when it is recalled that last year the abandonment was 7.5 per cent., and the ten-year average is 11.1 per cent. Apparently, between 8,500,000 and 9,000,000 acres of winter wheat will be plowed up and put in to other crops. As the areas seeded last autumn was 42,300,000 acres, we should have something like 33,300,000 acres to harvest instead of the 36,438,000 of last year. In the circumstances, the extreme estimate of 454,000,000 bushels can be looked upon as the margin beyond which the official estimate will not go. The most that can be hoped for is that it will not go far below that figure. No estimate of spring wheat acreage will be made in the May report of the department, but present indications are that the expected increase is not materializing. Seeding has progressed under satisfactory conditions, and at this date the outlook is good for at least a normal yield. But spring wheat is a creature of the weather, and no one can predict with any degree of accuracy at this time whether the yield will be large or small. We do know a normal yield on the probable acreage would be under 250,000,000 bushels. Those who are fond of counting chickens before they are hatched can work on those figures and satisfy themselves, not forgetting that the weather will be an unusually important factor this year in the final results. But for those who are satisfied with approximations,

the wheat supply this year looks like 200,000,000 bushels less than the amount harvested in 1924."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 7: Chicago hog prices closed at $12.10 for the top and $11.75 to $12 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.65 to $11.15; butcher cows and heifers $4.75 to $11.25; feeder steers $5.90 to $9; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $10.75.

Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes closed at $5.50 to $5.75 per barrel, low as $5 in Cincinnatie; $4.25 f. o. b. Hastings. South Carolina pointed type cabbage advanced 50¢ to $1.25 per barrel crate, ranging mostly $2.25 to $2.50 in eastern markets. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions advanced 50¢ to $1.00; closing at $2.75 to $3.25 per crate in consuming centers, top of $3.50 in Baltimore; $2.35 to $2.50 f. o. b. North Carolina and Virginia Klondike strawberries 15¢ to 18¢ quart basis in New York.

Grain prices quoted May 7 No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.60 1/2 to $1.85 1/2. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.90 to $1.93; Kansas City $1.72 to $1.80. No. 2 hard winter Chicago $1.66 3/4; St. Louis $1.66; Kansas City $1.63 to $1.72. No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.07; No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.09 3/4; Minneapolis $1.02 to $1.04. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.16; St. Louis $1.15 1/2 to $1.16; Kansas City $1.13 to $1.15. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.14. No. 2 white corn St. Louis $1.15 to $1.15 1/2; Kansas City $1.10 to $1.12; No. 3 white corn Chicago $1.11. No. 3 white oats Chicago 42 1/2 to 46 1/4¢; Minneapolis 41 3/4 to 42 1/4¢; St. Louis 47 to 47 1/2¢; Kansas City 46 1/2¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 42¢; Chicago 40¢; Philadelphia 43¢; Boston 43¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 17 points, closing at 23.51¢ per lb. New York May future contracts down 13 points, closing at 23.12¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 7,	May 6,	May 7, 1924.
20 Industrials	125.16	124.32	92.47
20 R. R. stocks	97.68	97.65	81.88

(Wall St. Jour., May 8.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XVII, No. 34 Section 1 May 9, 1925.

BRITISH FOOD COUNCIL REPORT

An Associated Press dispatch from London to-day states that the royal food commission, which for many weeks has been hearing evidence regarding food prices, May 8 issued its reports--one majority and two minority. The majority report, signed with various reservations by Chairman Auckland Geddes and other members of the commission, recommends the establishment of a food council to maintain supervision over the staple food trades. This recommendation dominates most of the suggestions made. The commissioners recommend that the food council closely watch future developments in connection with importation of meat from Argentina. They think it may become necessary for the Government to intervene, either by acquiring a controlling interest in the British companies operating in Argentina or in some other way, if at any time the supply of chilled and frozen meat from this source should be dominated by an adverse trading combination. In connection with the baking and distribution of bread, the commission recommends that the food council maintain close supervision and intervene when prices tend to become unreasonable. It may be desirable, the majority report continues, to discuss with the domonion governments the possibility of encouraging the flow of food from the dominions to the British markets, in the interests both of the producer and the consumer. The Government, it is suggested, should exercise its influence to insure the continuous study of international food problems by the economic sections of the league of nations and preparation of periodical reports for the council of the league.

FRANCE AND GERMANY SIGN POTASH ACCORD

A Paris dispatch to the press to-day says: "France and Germany last night signed an agreement covering the potash industries in the two countries which is important to all consumers. It is recalled here that American trade papers expressed antagonism to previous agreements on this score as being contrary to the freedom of competition. The new accord is a complement to the treaty of commerce being negotiated with Germany, and like the iron, steel and coal trade, was taken up as an independent subject. Last year's agreement was limited to the United States and Swedish markets, but the present accord is extended to all countries of the world. The quotas henceforth will be established according to the capacity for absorption and the current demand from the various consuming countries. A new feature of yesterday's accord is that the contracting parties, instead of maintaining the prices which have been asked so far, will lower prices in order to stimulate the existing markets and open new markets for the Franco-German potashes."

RESERVE BOARD ON BUSINESS

The present condition of industry and business gives substantial promise of continuing prosperity, according to a survey for the first quarter of 1925 made public May 8 by the Federal Reserve Board. The output of basic industries has been considerably greater than for the corresponding period a year ago, foreign demand for American products showed a large increase, the volume of merchandise distribution has been at a higher level, and sales by mail order houses and manufacturers of agricultural implements have been much larger than for the comparable periods of both 1924 and 1923.

Section 2

British Wool Slump

A London dispatch to the press of May 8 says: "The remarkable slump in wool prices is attracting attention, the prices having fallen about 40 per cent in four months without much apparent cause. The buyers, it is said, miscalculated the rate of consumption and consequently have many thousands of bales on hand, but not enough to account for the slump. Sir Arthur Goldfinch, director of war materials during the World War, and an authority on wool, is quoted by the Daily Mail as saying that the surplus is very small as compared with the average consumption, but that owing to it something like a panic now is occurring. The Melbourne correspondent of the Daily Telegraph reports that a council of Australian wool brokers unanimously resolved May 7 that it was desirable to suspend all wool sales throughout Australia until July 1 and it was actually decided that there should be no sales in Australia for a week.

Business Conditions

Archer Wall Douglas, writing in The Magazine of Wall Street for May 9, says: "There is but one way at present to get a true conception of the nature and trend of business and that is to be in touch with actual facts and prevailing sentiment, rather than trust to such conventional barometers as the course of the stock market, iron and steel production, freight car loadings, bank debits to individual accounts, and the like, for they all seem to have proved broken reeds to lean upon during the last six months. The story that comes to me from trained observers in all sections is one of the much mixed conditions, often cheek by jowl, but of generally widespread, fundamentally sound nature. This is especially true of agriculture which is engaged in the all important task of preparing for the coming harvest..... The farmers are thinking mostly for themselves, for the world agriculture has to-day a wider knowledge of present happenings and of future likelihoods than ever before, and is consequently taking more thought of the morrow and of its uncertainties. Moreover, the many hundred farmer cooperative societies take constant counsel together as to how they shall better their calling and lessen its manifest hazards and chances. Their principal and most difficult problem is to coordinate supply to demand, a problem complicated by the uncertainties of weather and of the extent of possible damage by predatory insects. In this respect they are far less fortunate than industrial life which has learned how to reduce output when orders fall off, and thus prevent those fluctuations in costs of commodities which are the bane of agricultural production..... Meanwhile the most notable factor in the situation is a widespread conservatism which is reflected in purchasing only for immediate needs, and is entirely devoid of speculation. To that extent, the unrestrained speculation in the stock market and the grain pit has been a warning rather than a forecast..... Yet when all is said it is significant that the general sentiment is one of comparative optimism save in those few localities where conditions are adverse and unpromising. This is further supplemented by the feeling that we are doing very well as it is, and that conditions will

steadily improve as the spring develops, and that a good harvest at remunerative prices to the farmer will be the needed impetus to set our feet upon the beginning of a sound and healthy prosperity.

Farm Training in Canada

The success of the Hoadley scheme in Alberta, by which a selected number of English public and secondary schoolboys were trained, through an intensive winter agricultural course, for positions on Alberta farms as a preliminary to owning their own, is followed by an announcement concerning equal success in the case of English students at Macdonald College, Quebec. A Canadian Pacific bulletin states that "regarding the operation of the two schemes together in their merely initial stages, there is every justification for a further encouragement of the movement of boys from these schools of the British Isles, alike from the viewpoints of the fostering Canadian organizations, and from that of the boys and their parents and guardians." The plan evolved by Macdonald College and the Canadian Pacific Railway differed from that of the Minister of Agriculture from Alberta inasmuch as it was not Government-aided, and the course provided was not a short, intensive one, but the regular curriculum of the agricultural college.

Food and Clothing Cost

An editorial in The New York Times for May 7 says: "The current number of The Advertising and Selling Fortnightly presents a tabulation of estimated per capita expenditures on food and clothing in the principal cities. From this it would appear that the people of Philadelphia spend exactly one-half as much on clothing as they do on food. In New York City the clothes bill is 48 per cent of the food bill. In Chicago it is 42 per cent. The Chicago rate corresponds with the rate fixed in the course of an investigation of workingmen's budgets in Philadelphia in 1913-15. At the very least the people of the United States spend as much on clothes, proportionately, as they did just before the war, Actually, the clothes instinct is stronger than ever, because the ratio with respect to food has more than maintained itself against the pressure from higher rents. Normally one would have expected an increase in rents to force a decrease, not in the first three essential categories--food, shelter and clothes--but in the last. This has not happened. It is precisely in respect to food that the American people have been practicing economy most strenuously. Nominal wages have at least doubled since the 1913-15 Philadelphia survey mentioned above. If a worker's family of five at that time spent $380 on food, the indicated sum for to-day would be $750. But even if we allow for the fact that food prices have lagged behind other prices, thrift is plainly discernible in the Philadelphia food bill to-day of $515 for a family of five. It is a showing to be expected among the salaried classes, where food would be sacrificed to decent standards of housing and dress. But apparently the same factor operates for the working people. It testifies, of course, to a comparatively high standard of living before the war. The slack was there to be taken in....."

Synthetic Products

The New York Times of May 8 says: "The receipt at the Port of New York of thousands of gallons of methynol, a synthetic wood alcohol, from Germany; the appearance on the market of tetraethyl, a leaded gasoline, and the recurrence of reports that British scientists are endeavoring to perfect the production of synthetic sugar for commercial purposes have served to arouse a lively interest among scientists concerning the effects which the present and prospective achievements of this kind may have upon the industry....."

Wheat Marketing

James E. Boyle, professor of rural economy, Cornell University, is the author of an article entitled "What Happened to the Wheat Market," in The Nation's Business for May. He says: ".....The organized grain exchanges during the last six months of 1924 proved their power to absorb enormous wheat receipts, without any break in prices. World conditions of supply and demand called for rising prices, and in the face of almost unprecedented shipments to primary markets in the United States, our prices gradually worked upward. From July to November the wheat receipts at our primary markets were 221 million bushels in 1923, but they were 362 million bushels for the same period in 1924. In other words, the farmers literally dumped 141,000,000 bushels of wheat on the market during this five-month period in excess of normal flow. And how did the market behave? Did it break? It did not. The market prices disprove the theories of our wheat-pooling friends who contend that if they can 'control the flow' of wheat to market they can 'control the price.' There are two questions to be asked and answered. What is the economic theory on which wheat pools are based? How do these theories check with the facts? Here are the answers: I. Wheat-pool Theory.--The pool aims to control price, not by controlling consumer demand or the supply produced by the farmer, but by controlling the flow of this supply to market. 'With the flow to market controlled, there is no surplus bugaboo,' says a textbook--'Merchandise Your Wheat' issued by the youngest of the pools. The fact is ignored here that the Government crop report may report a surplus or a shortage, and the crop report, not the flow to market, will affect the price. The Government report on the Canadian wheat shortage last summer put the price up, many weeks before the 'flow of the grain' was even started towards the market. 'Let's get control of the flow of the wheat crop through our own association and be able to merchandise it in a way that will let us have a voice in making prices,' says one State wheat-pool textbook. 'If we were organized we would direct our wheat as the steel industry controls the flow of its steel,' says the ex-governor of a mid-western State. Please note here the emphasis on the 'flow' or steel, rather than on the quantity and quality control exercised by the steel manufacturer. The secretary of the North Dakota Wheat Pool declared that it intended to raise the price level of wheat by controlling flow. Now it is time to check this theory with the facts. It may be said, at the outset, that although the farmers are investing many

tens of thousands of dollars on this theory, yet this theory is a superstition--a belief not based on fact..... The facts of the market show that big receipts at the market have practically the same effect as small receipts. The market is a wide one, and is an accurate price barometer registering world supply and demand conditions of all kinds, not merely the casual daily fluctuations in cash grain receipts."

Wood Waste Prevention

An editorial in The Washington Post for May 6 says: "American Forest Week would have been worth while if it had produced no other result than the organization of Secretary Hoover's committee for the reduction of waste in the use of wood. It is probable that the actual use of wood exceeds at present the growth of new timber. The percentage of waste is discreditably and ruinously large. It is waste, far more than legitimate use, that is depleting the forests. This waste occurs in practically all directions. It occurs in the neglect of forests, which result in the loss of much timber through windfalls and decay. It occurs in the forest fires which are still numerous and extensive. It occurs in faulty methods of cutting down trees, anf marketing them, and sawing them into lumber. But beyond all these, there is vast wastefulness in the use of lumber, for building and industrial purposes. Of the lumber used for houses and barns and fences, for furniture, for crates and boxes, and for innumerable other purposes, the percentage that goes to sheer waste is entirely too large. It is encouraging to see that Secretary Hoover's committee comprises representatives of all the important wood-using industries, and that it purposes to canvass the whole field, so as to check waste in small things as well as great, and in the manufacture of the finished product as well as in the cutting of the raw material. If even half the present needless waste should be stopped, a long step would have been taken toward solving the forestry problem."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

In an editorial on the recently issued statement of the Federal Horticultural Board regarding the Narcissus bulb situation, The Florists Exchange for May 9 says: ".....On the subject of the probability of the home production of these bulbs, the department is advised, says Doctor Marlatt, that very substantial progress has been made. The exchange and various members of the trade have also been advised of this substantial progress--but somehow or other these advices invariably seem to emanate from those who are either attempting to grow, or hope to be able to grow, or contemplate growing, the crops which they fervently hope and expect are ultimately to meet the demands of the country! Of course such an outlook is cheerful, and no one hopes more ardently than we do that success will crown the efforts of the hardy pioneers who are endeavoring to establish an American bulb culture; but just what is going to bridge the gap between the present situation

and the indefinite date of the realization of this prospect--a gap during which, unless an adequate supply of bulbs can be assured, these valuable and much desired items are likely to slip out of sight of the public and disappear from the channels of trade?"

Department of Agriculture 2

The Field Illustrated for May says: "The statement of Secretary of Agriculture William M. Jardine, issued upon the taking up of his new duties at Washington, is as clear a presentation of facts as regards the agricultural situation as we have read. He points out that the solution of the problem rests largely with the farmer himself and not with Congress. 'But too few people stop to consider that legislation can not accomplish everything. There is not a pot of gold at the end of the legislative rainbow. There is no magic power in legislation as a panacea for agricultural difficulties--we can have a prosperous agriculture only if the basis upon which it is built is sound. Like the manufacturer, the farmer must study his market and adjust his production to the demands of the consumer. He must adopt the most efficient methods of farming which yield him maximum net returns for his capital and labor. He must improve and standardize the quality of his product in order to command the best market prices. And he must market his products in the most efficient way. The efficient farmer will succeed; the inefficient farmer will ultimately fail.' With this summary of the situation, Secretary Jardine outlines a plan of action that will be based principally on helping the farmer to help himself."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 8: Chicago hog prices closed at $12.45 for the top and $12 to $12.40 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.65 to $11.15; butcher cows and heifers $4.75 6o $11.25; feeder steers $5.90 to $9; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $10.50; fat lambs $12 to $14.10; spring lambs $14 to $16.75; yearlings $8.50 to $11.50; fat ewes $5 to $8.50.

Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes advanced 50¢ to $1.50 to a range of $5.50 to $6.00 per barrel in distributing centers; $4.50 f. o. b. Hastings. Arkansas and Missouri Aroma strawberries $5 to $5.75 per 24-quart crate in city markets; $4.50 f. o. b. Southwestern Missouri points. Florida tomatoes, fancy count, weaker at $4 to $5 per original six-basket carrier, top of $5.25 in Baltimore. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions ranged 75¢ to $1.00 higher at $3 to $3.50 per crate in consuming centers; $2.50 to $2.60 f. o. b.

Grain prices quoted May 8: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.64 to $1.88; No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.85 to $1.88; Kansas City $1.72 to $1.80. No. 2 hard winter Chicago $1.74 1/2; St. Louis $1.71; Kansas City $1.63 to $1.72. No. 3 mixed corn Minneapolis $1.04 to $1.06. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.18; St. Louis $1.20; Kansas City $1.13 to $1.18. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.14 to $1.16 3/4; Minneapolis $1.11 to $1.13. No. 2 white corn St. Louis $1.16 1/2 to $1.17; Kansas City $1.13. No. 3 white oats Chicago 46 to 47 1/4¢; Minneapolis 42 7/8 to 43 7/8¢; St. Louis 48 to 49¢.

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XVII, No. 35 Section 1 May 11, 1925.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK DEMOBILIZATION PROPOSED

The time has come to "demobilize the Federal Reserve Banks by repealing certain war-time amendments that clothed them with extraordinary powers to control credits," it is declared by L. T. McFadden, Chairman House of Representatives Committee on Banking and Currency, in an article made public at New York to-day to be published in the next issue of the American Bankers Association Journal, which says: "Desirous of presenting both sides of each question, the Journal this month is able to give the personal views of Hon. L. T. McFadden on certain features of the Federal Reserve Act. As a probable forecast of one possible trend of banking legislation in the next Congress they can not fail to command the closest attention of the banking world." Mr. McFadden says in part that Reserve notes should be issued only against commercial paper in response to trade needs,"for, under the present system, the Reserve Banks may issue notes against gold, thereby introducing a rigid element in our currency system and acquiring the means of extending excess credits that American business does not need." He proposes to give the Reserve Banks custody of only part of the member banks reserves instead of the whole, "so that the judgment of individual bank managers may be exercised to a greater extent in determining how great a volume of credit shall be extended." (Press statement, Am. Bankers Assoc.)

POTASH PRICES

A Berlin dispatch to the press of May 11 states that the signature of a Franco-German potash agreement in Paris, dividing the potash and fertilizer markets of the world between French and German interests, is accompanied by public assurances that an increase in prices is not the objective of the agreement. Potash circles in Berlin, however, believe one of the first consequences will be a rise in world potash prices, which now are under the costs of German domestic production and do not permit the poorer grade of Alsatian and German mines to do a profitable export business. Division of export business is arranged on a general territorial basis, but in such a manner as will give the German syndicate approximately 70 per cent and the Alsatian mines 30 per cent of the total export trade, excluding America. The American market is covered by an earlier agreement assigning Germany two-thirds and France a third.

LANDSCAPE DISFIGUREMENT PREVENTION IN BRITAIN

For the protection of public parks and pleasure grounds, and to prevent the disfigurement of the natural beauty of the landscape, a bill was recently introduced in the British Parliament to amend the Advertisements Regulation act of 1907. According to advices just received by the Bankers Trust Company of New York, this act and the original act which it amends, are especially intended to enable local authorities to make by-laws for regulating, restricting, or preventing within their district, or any part thereof, the exhibition of advertisements so as to disfigure or injuriously affect the view of rural scenery from a highway or railway, or from any public place or water; or the amenities of villages in rural districts, of any historical or public building, or of any place frequented by the public solely or chiefly on account of its beauty or historical interest.

Section 2.

College Education for Farmers.

An editorial in Wallace's Farmer for May 1 says: "President Pearson, of the agricultural college at Ames recently gave his idea of how many farmers should be college graduates. 'There should be as many college graduates in a given number of farmers having a given capital as are found in a similar group of business men having approximately the same total capital. Certainly there should be at least as many well educated farmers in an average agricultural community as the number of well educated doctors, lawyers, store-keepers, insurance agents, and others who are dealing constantly with the farmers.' President Pearson is right. This Nation must avoid a farm peasantry, and one of the surest ways of so doing is to have a large number of well-educated men engaged in actual farming. Farmers are entitled to as high a standard of living as any other class of society, and one of the outstanding characteristics of a higher standard of living is a college education for our brighter boys and girls."

Farming as A Business

An editorial in The Wisconsin Agriculturist for May 2 says: "One often hears farmers and breeders speak of their vocation as do those playing cards or base ball. 'The choice of a herd sire will often make or break you in the dairy game,' is just one example. You have heard of breeders saying: 'Yes, I am in the Duroc, Shropshire, Holstein or Shorthorn game.' There are even those who speak of 'farmers and business men.' Farming is not a game. It is a business. To be successful the farmer must possess more business ability than is commonly found among average merchants, shop keepers and other classes. There is more capital invested in single farms than there is in the average business house that comes in direct contact with the farmer. It takes real skill to finance a farm and make that financing pay. That is business ability..... Farming is a business and can be made to be respected as a business, acquiring the credits of business, if those who are in it will give it the proper respect when they write or speak of it."

Farming in Great Britain

An editorial in The Field (London) for April 30 says: "The farming of Great Britain in spite of its financial instability, is far from being in the decrepit state so frequently depicted. What is read and listened to on the subject of farming creates doubt sometimes, not only as to the familiarity of the speaker or the writer with the conditions he criticizes, but as to his ability to form a true perspective of systems and achievements in different countries. One of the latest lines of attack on English agriculture is that of alleged under-farming.... Those who heard the address by Sir Daniel Hall on the productivity of English soils at the British Institution the other evening must be puzzled in reading some of the subsequent expositions on British farming. The contrast in the estimates of capacity and attainment as compared with

other countries is so pronounced that one or other of the computations must be far wide of the mark. The average reader will not hesitate as to the guide he will accept. The Chief Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture recognizes the imperfections of our home farming, but he discusses them with economic and scientific understanding, prudently blended, and in the final issue represents British farming, as still something of which to be proud. The standard of production as compared with other countries on the Continent of Europe, or elsewhere, shows this country in more favorable light than any other of comparable extent and diversity of enterprise.....While disposing effectively of the allegation of incompetence in British farming as compared with any other country, Sir Daniel Hall declared emphatically that our standard of production might and ought to be higher. But conditions operated to necessitate fine discrimination in the relationship of outlay and revenue and with the former more or less stable, with a tendency to rise, and the latter exceedingly variable with on the average a disposition to fall, the occupier of poor or moderate land had to proceed with close and exacting discernment."

Food Prices

The United States Department of Labor, through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, has completed the compilations showing changes in the retail cost of food in 23 of the 51 cities included in the Bureau's report. During the month from March 15 to April 15, 1925, 14 of the 23 cities showed decreases as follows: Milwaukee, 2 per cent; Birmingham, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Louisville, New Haven, St. Paul, Scranton and Springfield, Illinois, 1 per cent; and Bridgeport, Fall River, Manchester, and Omaha, less than five-tenths of 1 per cent. The following 8 cities showed increases: Denver, 2 per cent; Charleston, S. C. and Richmond, 1 per cent; and Birmingham, Columbus, Houston, Norfolk, and Washington, D. C., less than five-tenths of 1 per cent. In Providence there was no change in the month. For the year period, April 15, 1924 to April 15, 1925, all of the 23 cities showed increases as follows: Houston, 12 per cent; Louisville, 11 per cent; Birmingham and Norfolk, 10 per cent; Detroit and Richmond, 8 per cent; Charleston, S. C., Omaha, St. Paul, Scranton, and Washington, D. C., 7 per cent; Cleveland, Columbus, and Springfield, Illinois, 6 per cent; Bridgeport, Denver, Fall River, and Indianapolis, 5 per cent; Boston Milwaukee, and Providence, 4 per cent; New Haven, 3 per cent; and Manchester, 2 per cent. As compared with the average cost in the year 1913, the retail cost of food on April 15, 1925 was 61 per cent higher in Birmingham, 60 per cent in Richmond, 57 per cent in Detroit and Washington, D. C., 56 per cent in Charleston, S. C., 54 per cent in Scranton, 50 per cent in Milwaukee, 49 per cent in Omaha, 48 per cent in Boston, Cleveland, and Providence, 47 per cent in Louisville, 45 per cent in New Haven, 43 per cent in Fall River and Manchester, 42 per cent in Indianapolis, and 35 per cent in Denver.

Forest Conservation in Canada

An editorial in Illustrated Canadian Forest and Outdoors for May says: "Our forests will continue to be burned at the rate of two million acres a year, until the people, the owners of the forests, evince something of the same interest in them as they do in Church Union, in the tariff and in who is to be the next Prime Minister..... The interests of this country and the development of morality are well served by the avoidance of fire in this life. Protection from forest fires should be a paramount issue in politics. Why spend so much time and energy in discussing tariffs when the second largest foundation of our industries is burning beneath them? Does it matter much who is the prime minister, so long as we continue to lay waste our forest wealth at the rate of two million acres a year? No one man under such conditions can prevent the paralysis of industry and the depopulation of lumbering communities that inevitably follow in the wake of forest devastation. There will be no adequat forest fire protection in this country until our political leaders are actually seized with its importance in terms of industrial life, and act accordingly. The manifestation of this seizure will express itself in better organization of our forest protection forces and greater appropriations of money to carry on their work."

Hog Production

An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer for May 2 says: "No other line of animal production has experienced a more uniform series of ups and downs than hog production. As a result, or possibly because of it, the market has gone through a similar dance, but the extremes were at opposite points. How can these ups and down be ironed out so that the business of producing pork may become more stable and even? No plan has yet been devised or recommended, except that of an appeal to individual hog raisers, to maintain a regular and uniform number of hogs. Just now, due to high prices of corn and pork, the number of hogs in the country is at a low point. This will make for high prices during the next year or two and, if past experience is repeated, this will induce a large increase in the number of hogs which will be continued until there is a surplus and a low price will again reduce the number. For fifty years the hog business has gone round and round this circle, and it will probably continue to do so until farmers learn to regulate and gauge the business on a sensible basis."

Milling Cooperation

An editorial in New England Homestead for May 2 says: "In the purchase of the big milling plant at Buffalo, the Eastern States Farmers' Exchange has taken another step in cooperative buying. An old saying is that nothing succeeds like success. Building up within three years a cooperative feed trade among New England farmers that passes the 100,000 ton mark annually is a real accomplishment. In having its own milling plant strategically located, where it can control not only the purchases but also the quality of the output, ought to eliminate some of the past unfavorable criticism. Under the new

arrangements the exchange is to have complete supervision in the mixing and processing of its feeds for our New England farmers who patronize the organization. There should be no more complaint about oat clippings and screenings accidentally finding their way into the bags, because there is no excuse for their being in the mill to begin with. It is true that with the increased control and power the organization will also assume new responsibilities. The financing of the plant appears to have been carried through with celerity and in such a manner that farmers are not called upon for extra funds. In entering the milling business the Eastern States Exchange is writing new cooperative history and apparently bringing producer and consumer one step closer together. Here, as always, much is going to depend upon the management....."

Motor Truck Carriers

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for May 6 says: "Considerable ink has been wasted over the problem of trucking in an effort to show that the motor truck is the common carrier of the future for short hauls. Within the past year a number of railroads have seen fit to call attention to this competition and to explain a way some of their losses in freight revenue by reason of the increase in truck lines. It has been shown that in some instances motor trucks have been able to take some rather profitable business away from the railroads. This being so there is considerable merit in the claim of the railroads that the competition is unjust because trucks are allowed to operate under conditions that the roads themselves are not permitted. A common carrier, if licensed at all for that purpose, is in duty bound to offer adequate facilities to transport the goods the public offers. It must hold itself in readiness to transport such goods at all times without regard to the reason or condition of the weather. The railroads undertake to execute that duty. But trucks will operate only when the public roads are open and in good condition; they will transport freight only when the weather is favorable, and only in volume when public roads are open and in good condition; they will transport freight only when the weather is favorable, and only in volume when public roads are provided for their easy operation. They do not offer to transport freight whenever the shipper is ready, but only when they are guaranteed a profit thereon."

"New Industries" Committee

An editorial in The Prairie Farmer for May 2 says: "The Illinois Chamber of Commerce has appointed a special 'new industries' committee, with Scott Brown of the Illinois Power and Light Corporation as chairman, to bring the advantages of Illinois as a manufacturin State to the attention of industries which may be seeking a new locatio This is a move of great importance to the farmers of the State. The development of indusfries throughout the State will add to the home market for farm products. The farmer's problem is not to make the consumer pay more for food, but to get a larger share of what he now pays. That problem is greatly simplified when the consumer is brought to our door."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 9:- Chicago hog prices ranged from $1.10 to $1.20 higher than a week ago, closing at $12.65 for the top and $12.20 to $12.60 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers 10¢ lower to 25¢ higher at $8.65 to $11.15; butcher cows and heifers 15 to 50¢ higher at $4.75 to $11.25; feeder steers steady at $5.90 to $9; light and medium weight veal calves steady at $7.50 to $10.50; fat lambs 25 to 60¢ higher at $12 to $14.10; spring lambs $14 to $16.75; yearlings 25¢ higher at $8.50 to $11.50; fat ewes steady to 25¢ higher at $5 to $8.50.

Potato markets strong, prices advancing. Florida Spaulding Rose 75¢ to $1.50 higher at $6 to $6.50 per bbl. to jobbers in leading markets, low as $5.25 in Cicinnati; $5 f.o.b. Hastings. Strawberries from most leading sections tended toward lower levels, though a few markets held nearly steady. North Carolina and Virginia Klondikes and Missionarys brought 15 to 18¢ quart basis in New York. Cabbage stronger. South Carolina and Virginia Wakefield closed at $2.50 to $3 per bbl. crate in eastern markets. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions advanced generally 75¢ to $1, ranging $3 to $3.50 per crate in consuming centers; $2.60 to $2.65 f. o. b. Florida fancy tomatoes weaker at $3.75 to $4.75 per original six-basket carrier in city wholesale markets.

Grain market steady to firm, but prices sagging from week's high point with Government crop report less bullish than some private estimates. Corn futures about 4 to 5¢ higher, influenced by strength in wheat and light offerings contract grades. Quoted May 9: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.56 to $1.82. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.80 to $1.83. No. 2 hard winter Chicago $1.68; St. Louis $1.66. No. 2 mixed corn Minneapolis $1.01 1/2 to $1.03 1/2; No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.11 1/2. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.16 1/2; St. Louis $1.16.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets during the week, declined 80 points, closing at 23.55¢ per lb.; New York May future contracts declined 89 points, closing at 23.02¢.

Butter markets continued sensitive during the week, but appeared steadier than the previous week. Prices held without much damage. Closing prices, 92 score: New York 43¢; Chicago 40¢; Philadelphia 44¢; Boston 43¢.

Cheese markets continue easy. Trading was not stimulated by previous weeks declines as further declines anticipated by many buyers. Closing prices on Wisconsin primary markets May 8: Flats 21¢; Cheddars 20 3/4¢; Daisies 21 1/4¢; Double Daisies 21¢; Young Americas 21 1/4¢; Longhorns 21 1/2¢; Square Prints 21 3/4¢.

Hay market dull. Moderate receipts equal to trade needs. Poor hay plentiful and off grades hard to sell. Timothy barely steady.

Feed markets very firm particularly for nearby shipment. Strength of market due to covering by shorts and smallness of mill offerings. Future shipment wheat feeds quoted 50¢ to $1 under prompt. Supplies of most feeds are good but no pressure of offering is noted. Production wheat feeds fair, other feeds good. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. XVII, No. 36 Section 1 May 12, 1925.

THE FLEXIBLE TARIFF

An editorial in The New York Times to-day says: "The courts recently ruled that those interested in the findings of the Tariff Commission had a right to know the facts on which the commission acted. Theoretically, the decision had to do with the tariff rates which the commission or the President might raise or lower. The only person not considered in the battles over the disputed rates was the consumer. True, the Tariff Commission seems to have had those who eat sugar in mind when it recommended the reduction of the duties which the President has been unable to approve after a year of consideration. That is to say, the commission may propose, but the President will dispose. Take the present confusion about the duty on linseed oil as an example of the flexible tariff plan. The commission recommended a reduction. The President referred the question to the Agricultural Department, with a hint that the difference between domestic and foreign costs did not exhaust the subject. The Agricultural Department clearly saw with the President's eye that it was desirable to consider also the effect on general industry of lowering specific customs dues. Now the Agricultural Department is reported to disagree with the Tariff Commission about linseed as widely as the commission disagreed within itself about sugar. Secretaries Hoover and Jardine are said to be against the Tariff Commission. Possibly Secretary Jardine may be thinking of the farmers who have taken his advice and raised flaxseed, while Secretary Hoover may have in mind the consumers who far outnumber the flaxseed farmers and want to paint their houses. This conflict of opinions suggests that the law is not adapted to the decision of conflicts of interests and opinions which lack certainty as regards either facts or policies. The flexible tariff, like the Volstead law, has reacted unfavorably upon all associated with it."

FEDERAL RESERVE ACT

The press to-day says: "Repeal of the war-time amendments to the Federal Reserve act, to be proposed by Representative Lewis T. McFadden, chairman of the House committee on currency and banking, is not likely to receive the support of the administration. Definite indication was given by Secretary Mellon yesterday that officials were satisfied with the manner in which provisions of the law are working. They believe the financial affairs of the country are operating smoothly under the system as now administered."

WOOL AUCTIONS SUSPENDED IN AUSTRALIA

A New York dispatch to the press to-day states that owing to the marked decline in prices, public wool auction sales in Australia will be closed until July 1, to be resumed then if the tone of the market warrants it, said a cablegram received yesterday by J. A. M. Elder, Australian Commissioner in the United States. Mr. Elder had cabled Premier Bruce for a statement on the situation. The Premier's cable gave the following survey: "Stocks on hand April 30, in store not offered, 340,57[illegible] bales; in store offered but withdrawn, 123,743 bales; total, 464,315 bales. It is estimated that between this date and June 30 a further 80,000 bales will be received." Mr. Elder said the suspension did not refer to private sales.

Section 2

Butter in Canada

With 3,600,000 milch cows, 300,000 dairy farmers, 1,500 creameries and many thousands of cheese factories, Canadians are the greatest butter eaters in the world, according to D'Arcy Scott, Secretary of the National Dairy Council of Canada. Their per capita consumption in 1923 was 27.43 pounds. (Press, May 10.)

Reforestation in the Adirondacks

An Associated Press dispatch from Saranac Lake May 10 states that private companies will this year carry out the greatest tree-planting program on record in the Adirondacks. The biggest of the reforestation projects is that to be put through by the Chateaugay Ore and Iron Company, which will plant 19,000 acres of its land between upper and lower Chateaugay Lakes. Two million three hundred thousand trees are to be set out. They will come from the private nursery of the Company at Bluff Point, which has been maintained for several years. The major portion of the trees will be red pine. There will also be Scotch pine and spruce. So important does the company deem reforestation that in addition to maintaining a private nursery, it has an expert forester as superintendent of woodlands to direct all planting. Another huge planting project is being carried out by the St. Regis Paper Company, which is planting 1,200,000 trees in wilderness lands in the town of Santa Clara, Franklin County. Small trees are sent in bundles to the planting grounds from the private nursery of the company of St. Regis Falls. The work is being done by ninety-five men under the direction of foresters. Last year the St. Regis Paper Company planted 761,000 trees.

Russian Agriculture

Alfred G. Smaltz is the author of an article on agriculture in Russia in The American Review of Reviews for May. He concludes as follows: "The Soviet Government has ambitious plans for the betterment of agricultural life. In the reports of the Land Department, one finds plans for the betterment of living conditions for the peasants. In this direction, the construction at the Moscow fair of model peasant homes, sanitary and comfortable, was a forceful object lesson. Then there are plans for the introduction and manufacture of modern farm implements. The use of the tractor in Russia will revolutionize agriculture. In 1923 the Pravda, a leading Government paper, stated that ten million head of working stock were needed to restore normal agricultural activity. The Soviet Government hopes to provide four and one-half million horse-power by the introduction and manufacture of tractors. In Samara alone it is reported that 136,000 new plow bottoms are needed. The frequent statement on the behalf of the Soviet that agriculture is 75 per cent. restored to pre-war status is thus probably an exaggeration. The Soviet is supporting experiment stations, farms, schools, and colleges. Short courses, six weeks in duration, were held last year in important villages all over Russia..... The experiment farms and stations are being equipped with modern machinery and purebred stock for breeding

purposes, all of which will be at the disposal of the surrounding peasants. In the Government stables at Moscow are gathered sires of the best lines of horse blood in Russia. These are also at the service of all horse owners. As a vital link between consumers and producers, cooperative organizations are being fostered. The grain is collected by the cooperatives, which, working through the Department of Foreign Trade, market the surplus abroad and in turn import the articles needed by the peasants. In the redivision of land the individual peasant profited by little, some authorities say only to the extent of about one acre per capita. The results of the agrarian revolution are psychological rather than material. Instead of paying a heavy rent to an absentee noble landlord, the peasant pays a tax to a Government, which, he has some reason to believe, intends to make his life better. The immediate hope of Russia is in her agriculture, and that depends upon increased yield per acre by improved methods."

Sugar

Theo. H. Price, writing in Commerce and Finance for May 6, says: "Sugar is not mentioned in the Bible, and it seems to have been practically unknown until about the fourteenth century, when it first made its debut in the commercial world. Since then its consumption has steadily increased, and America now uses over 100 pounds per capita, or about 5,000,000 long tons, annually..... If the same rate of consumption prevailed in every country, the world's total population of 1,000,000,000 would use nearly 80,000,000 tons of sugar each year and the present world's production of about 23,000,000 tons would be utterly inadequate. But unless economic history is misleading the time will come when a production of 80,000,000 tons of sugar will be required, for the earning power of the dense population of the Orient is rapidly increasing, their standards of living are rising, and they are developing an appetite for 'sweets' that is surprising. Therefore, this year's surplus of sugar may not prove to be quite as burdensome as predicted, for a gain of just one pound per capita in the world's consumption would more than absorb the Cuban-American carry over, estimated at from 500,000 to 600,000 tons. For this reason the 'investing speculator' or 'speculative investors' who are now commencing to study sugar are asking whether such an increase in consumption is possible and probable. If it is, the much talked of surplus will melt away quite as rapidly as if it had been dropped in a Gargantuan cup of hot coffee and when the next sugar season opens there will be no reserves."

Sugar Price

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for May 11 says: "Sugar at 2.5¢ per pound contrasts strangely with a twenty-year average of 3.939¢. At present quotations one expert estimates that the price of sugar is about 42 per cent below pre-war parity; and production estimates, already high, have recently been revised upward. The explanation of these record low prices is found chiefly in the statistics of production, but they do not provide a complete explanation of the drop in prices. It is urged in some quarters,

in fact, that too much emphasis has been placed upon production facts and too little attention has been paid to consumption figures. This is, of course, a general comment that is applicable to all our agricultural data. This emphasis on the supply side of the market, although unfortunate, is inevitable. After all, there is a concrete foundation upon which to base estimates of actual production, but estimates of consumption are vitiated by the dependence of buying activity (consumption) upon prices. And even that dependence is highly variable. Take sugar, for example. Lower prices will undoubtedly encourage consumption, but no one can say how much."

Tariff on Linseed Oil

The Journal of Commerce for May 11 says: "Agricultural interests of the country are urging upon President Coolidge the desirability of disregarding the report of the United States Tariff Commission indicating that a reduction in the present tariff rate on linseed oil would be justified. President Coolidge is now in possession of independent reports from both the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce. Although held in secrecy by both departments, it is the general impression that their heads take a different view of the matter from that adopted by both the majority and minority of the Tariff Commission."

Wheat Price

A London dispatch to the press of May 11 states that the upward reaction in the American wheat market received considerable comment in trade circles last week. It was believed that consumptive demand had largely improved since the fall from the excessively high prices of the year's earlier months. Millers have been more active buyers in the past week than for a good while past and a larger trading interest has developed in the wheat market on the recovery at Chicago and the Government's reduced estimate of the winter-wheat crop.

Wheat Price

"The Price of Our Bread" is the title of an article by Leo Pasvolsky in The American Review of Reviews for May. Mr. Pasvolsky says in part: "It is not often that we have had here, in the United States, so clean-cut an illustration of the essential economic unity and inter-dependence of the world as has been furnished by this world-wide rise in the price of wheat. During the year 1924 the wheat crop in the United States was substantially larger than it had been in 1923. Yet this past year witnessed a spectacular rise in the price of that grain. There was nothing in the domestic wheat situation to justify the rise of wheat to the two-dollar-per-bushel level. That rise came principally as a result of the condition of the world's wheat supply. The precipitate drop witnessed during the past few weeks has likewise resulted from the world, rather than national, outlook on the wheat situation. The United States produces more than enough wheat to feed the population of the country. Yet the very price of our daily bread depends upon what happens in the rest of the world. Not one of the countries remains outside the influence of the world grain market--that highly complex, though almost nebulous, organization for the supplying of essential foodstuffs.... It was the outlook on this year's

harvest that brought about the recent drop in the price of wheat. Barring unforeseen calamities, the peak of the wheat prices was probably reached in the first two months of 1925. Where these prices will be stabilized remains to be seen, but it is almost certain that they are not going back to the low 1923 level. The 1924 price upheaval has thus had the effect of practically restoring the price of wheat to what may be regarded as its normal place in relation to other commodities. It has brought wheat prices also more nearly into their pre-war relation to the prices of other foodstuffs. It has been a long step forward in bringing back to normal a very important phase of the world economic situation, viz., the price relationship between agricultural and industrial products, which has been sorely disturbed since the end of the war. This readjustment has been a painful one in terms of the price of our daily bread. But it was inevitable from the point of view of the general situation world-wide in its scope, and--judging by present appearances--more or less permanent in its larger results."

Wheat Situation

An editorial in Modern Miller for May 2 says: "The closeness of supplies in world's markets, which was the basis for the strength in wheat, since last harvest, asserted itself this week in the grain trade. George E. Marcy, of the Grain Marketing Co., and the Armour Grain Co., told the editor of the Modern Miller this week that the reserves abroad, following the heavy shipments, have been largely cleaned up, and buying is in progress again to fill the bread baskets of foreign countries. He exhibited a half dozen cables which showed needs of some European countries. The inquiries from abroad and the placing of orders convinced Mr. Marcy of the strength in the cash wheat situation and, as he expressed it, he is a bull with long horns. Some of the leading exporters have held this position throughout, that wheat available for export will be fully required before a new crop moves. Any damage reports, he says, will be reflected in a show of additional strength. It does not appear probable that Europe and other importing countries will fill their empty baskets without sustaining or advancing prices. In other words, the shortness of supplies is still a material factor of strength. The reduction of the winter wheat crop is a definite factor. But recent weather has been in every way favorable for winter areas. The spring wheat situation is very promising and there is in prospect a slight enlargement of acreage and a high condition in the three States. The holders of cash wheat know this and discount it as a bearish factor in the world situation."

Wool Prices

The press of May 9 states that discouraging reports on the price of wool in foreign markets and the publication of prices received at the sale in London bring out the fact that while the recession in values at the sale was 20 to 30 per cent on an average when compared with the last sale, held in March, domestic prices on similar wools have been at these London levels since early in April.

A London report states that the slump in the wool market is estimated to have cost the trade several million pounds, the figures varying from 10,000,000 pounds to 20,000,000. Wool men at

Bradford, the center of the industry, say it will be two or three years before the Yorkshire trade recovers even a reasonable part of its losses. They assert that most of the money thus dropped has gone into the pockets of Australian wool growers. The opinion at Bradford is that the excess of supply is not due to over-production but to under-consumption by the principal wool-using countries of Europe and North America. Experts differ on the exact causes of the slump, some attributing it to the disturbed outlook last fall, and others blaming pressure from the bankers, compelling the holders to sell at any cost.

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 11: Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes closed at $6 to $6.50 per barrel to jobbers in leading markets and $5 f. o. b. Hastings. Maine sacked Green Mountains $1.35 to $1.60 in city markets; bulk stock 67¢ f. o. b. Presque Isle. North Carolina and Virginia strawberries ranged 12 to 20¢ quart basis in eastern cities. Cabbage sold firm in Middle West; $1 to $1.25 higher in eastern markets Texas Yellow Bermuda onions stronger at $3.25 to $3.50 per crate in consuming centers; top of $3.75 in Philadelphia.

Chicago hog prices closed at $13.05 for the top and $12.50 to $12.90 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.65 to $11; butcher cows and heifers $4.75 to $11.25; feeder steers $5.90 to $9; light and medium weight veal calves $8.25 to $11; fat lambs $12.25 to $14.10; spring lambs $14 to $16.75; yearlings $8.50 to $11.75 and fat ewes $5 to $8.50

Grain prices quoted May 11: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.55 1/2 to $1.80 1/2. No. 2 red winter Chicago $1.90; St. Louis $1.80 to $1.84; Kansas City $1.65. No. 2 hard winter Chicago $1.67; St. Louis $1.63 to $1.64; Kansas City $1.59 to $1.71. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.06 to $1.09; No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.13 1/2; Minneapolis $1.02 3/4. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.15 1/ to $1.19; St. Louis $1.17 1/2; Kansas City $1.12. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.12 to $1.17; Minneapolis $1.08 3/4 to $1.09 3/4. No. 3 white corn Chicago $1.13 1/2 to $1.14; No. 2 white corn St. Louis $1.16; Kansas City $1.12. No. 3 white oats Chicago 43 1/4 to 46 3/4¢; Minneapolis 42 to 42 1/2¢; St. Louis 47 to 48 1/4¢; Kansas City 47 to 47 1/2¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 43 1/2¢; Chicago 41¢; Philadelphia 44 1/2¢; Boston 43 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 43 points, closing at 23.12¢ per lb. New York May future contracts down 46 points, closing at 22.56¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 11,	May 9,	May 11, 1924
20 Industrials	124.14	124.64	89.48
20 R. R. stocks	96.43	97.09	81.58

(Wall St. Jour., May 12.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XVII, No. 37 Section 1 May 13, 1925.

THE PRESIDENT ON BUSINESS PROBLEMS

The press to-day says: "In conferences May 12 President Coolidge emphasized that he was giving close consideration to questions which would benefit American business and industry. The policy of Government economy for the reduction of the burden of taxes is, perhaps, the chief governmental matter before him. General Lord, Director of the Budget Bureau, who has been touring the country spreading the gospel of economy, returned May 12 and conferred with the President. He reported that the surplus at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, would reach $103,000,000, despite the additional pay for postal employees. The situation of the Treasury, General Lord told the President would justify a good-sized tax reduction by the next Congress. The information brought to Mr. Coolidge by General Lord, which pleased the President most, was that all the heads of bureaus are doing their utmost to eliminate waste and unnecessary expenses and that the doctrine of economy was now well being observed in Federal bureaus..... The President also said that he had received the report of the British Royal Food Commission. He has found that it aims to bring about the production of food at the lowest possible cost as against the movement directed here by farm organizations to bring up the cost of food supplies to the highest possible figure and place them on a parity with the selling prices of industrial products. The subject, the President thinks, offers a fertile field for study. With one country trying to lessen the cost of food supplies and another country seeking by artificial means to raise prices, a situation is sure to develop which might in the end affect the agricultural problem in the United States."

FINANCIAL SERVICE

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for May 12 says: "Well-informed business men agree that commercial and financial conditions at present are remarkably sound. Above all things they are liquid..... There is another fundamental change which should be immediately recognized by those who remember the defects of our old national banking system, before the institution of the Federal Reserve banks. The money market throughout the year is now kept upon an even keel. But in the not so very old days there was always a squeeze in money when the time for moving the crops came around and sometimes an embarrassing demand in the spring. These have been ironed out by placing the resources of any banking center automatically at the service of the others..... Crop failures affect the railroads, but only through the commercial depression they produce..... But there is a condition so widespread that we may hope it is thinly spread and, therefore, not dangerous, or at least not immediately dangerous. This arises out of the inflation of land values, which has been accompanied by an inflation of assessment for taxes never experienced before. The unwise inducements held out to Congress to the States to borrow money for costly road-building inaugurated an area of extravagance which could only be met by raising the tax assessments in counties and municipalities, there is now a deplorable absence of this safety provision. Those who are heavily assessed on what they know to be speculative values are slow to protest because they fear they may prejudice the selling value of what they hope to unload. The time is inevitably coming when these assessments must be reduced. The farmers can not stand the tax burden and manufacturing plants are being transferred where possible from overtaxed towns and cities. When that time comes the value of exemption from Federal taxes is likely to experience a searching test."

Section 2

British Agricultural Policy

Country Life (London) for May 2 says: "In view of the determination of Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Wood to spare no pains in attempting to draw up an agricultural policy for general acceptation, it is all to the good that the landowners have drawn up a statement of the situation as they see it. They do not attempt to define a general agricultural policy, but prefer to divide the subject into parts. For example, it is said that the problem of the farmer is economic in character, whereas the Nation's problem is one of insurance against emergencies. The latter is, however, only a partial truth. The real problem is to increase the supply of home-grown food so that in time of war we shall not be so much as formerly dependent on a foreign supply, and in time of peace there should be no need to pay enormous sums for foreign produce that could be equally well supplied from the native soil. Obviously, the first point to be attended to is an increase of arable land, because arable is more productive than meadow. More ploughing would provide more employment and more food. Landowners do not direct their attention to what is, perhaps, the gravest sign of disease, and that is, the continued departure of labor from the land. The country districts are losing largely in population, and, as things stand, there is very little inducement for the working people to stay at home. The minimum wage is not sufficient to provide the comforts which they have a right to expect, and they see before them very little future. The entire scheme of the landowners must be considered with regard to the help it affords towards stopping the rural exodus. Their point, made indirectly, is that land in this country has to carry burdens from which competing countries are exempt, and which render them impotent. Heavy taxation has to be met from the produce of our acres in the form of death duties, income tax (including super-tax where applicable), land tax and local rates. The landlord's case is worse than that of the industrialists, inasmuch as the various levies fall more heavily upon him. Capital invested in agriculture yields a comparatively small return, and this small return is spread over a long period. Money may be turned over with monthly, weekly or almost daily profits in other callings, but it takes twelve months to realize an income from the land. Hence there is justice in the complaint of the landowners that the statutory basis of taxation is far in excess of the capital net income enjoyed by the owner..... In regard to settlement on the land, the views of the landowners are those held by all who have looked carefully into the subject. They say that the provision of small holdings, wherever practicable, should be encouraged, and they give four reasons. The first, because it is a method of maintaining a rural population. Second, it is an encouragement of intensive cultivation--that is, of increasing the output of food from the land, which is a most important part of the program. Thirdly, it provides a ladder by which the efficient and thrifty agricultural holder can make

his way upwards while all the time he is earning a little more than a livelihood and gaining the experience which is necessary to further success. Lastly, it provides the very best type of worker for the larger farmers, and a surplus rural population forms the one class of emigrant that is most likely to help our colonies and the Empire altogether..... This authoritative statement of the policy advocated by the landowners will be found most useful when the final resolutions come to be drawn up, but it should be remembered that three voices are entitled to a hearing, and this is only one. It would be still more helpful if the Farmers' Union were to draw up their program, and if the laborers, through their chosen mouthpiece, gave their views also. Even then, the case would not be exhaustively stated, because the country will in the end examine such advice as is tendered, and then adapt and enlarge if from a national and imperial point of view. This is a task for the interpretators of the Nation at large, that is to say, the statesmen and leaders who are capable of forming an opinion and giving advice."

Cotton Exposition

A New York dispatch to the press of May 12 states that the opening of the Southern Cotton Exposition at New York May 11 was largely attended. The report says: "One of the most interesting exhibits, never before shown, was cotton being tested by Government experts for length and strength of staple. Great skill is required in this work, and it takes long training to become expert in it."

Forest Week Observation

In an editorial on progress in reforestation, The Washington Post of May 12 says: ".....A marked feature of the publicity, speeches and pageants of the week's program was the cordial participation of lumbermen, paper and pulp manufacturers and other forest owners. They were invited to their own party this time. The forest restoration enthusiasts have stopped calling the forest users 'criminals' 'devastators,' etc., and have recognized that the forest situation is a general responsibility, created in the beginning by our extravagant national land policy. If there is any 'crime' or 'devastation' in the utilization of the forests to give the people houses, material for hundreds of different groups of industry, and paper for their books and newspapers, films for their movies, etc., it is collective guilt. For a century the Nation eagerly gave or sold the timber land for use, and every incentive was provided to consume forests and none to replace them. Indeed, throughout the Nineteenth Century the general opinion was that the forests were an impediment to development and settlement. Changing economic conditions--making timber valuable--and changing public policy are beginning to restore the forests. Far more progress has been made than is generally appreciated. About a third of all our standing timber is second-growth. Hundreds of timber companies are beginning to reforest, and the ever expanding national and other public forests already comprise about a fifth of the forest area of the country and about a third of the standing timber. Altogether there is much cause for optimism in the general outlook."

Linseed Oil Duties

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for May 12 says: "Unless current report in Washington is badly in error, the President does not intend to act upon the recommendations said to have been made to him some time ago by the Tariff Commission in the matter of the existing duties upon linseed oil. He has apparently been led to this decision by complaint on the part of the farmers that substantially reduced import exaction upon linseed oil at this time would place a burden upon the farmers of the country, who, at the advice and encouragement of the Government itself, have been increasing their output to flax and flaxseed. We have here a case which in basic respects is closely similar to the sugar tariff episode some months ago, but with this difference: the Tariff Commission is unanimous in the view that reduction ought to be made in the duty on linseed oil. The President is accordingly forced, in assuming the attitude that is attributed to him, to ignore the unanimous advice of the Tariff Commission, which, according to some dreamy prophets, was to adjust rates of duty in keeping with a perfectly objective and 'scientific' formula. This whole linseed oil case affords an excellent example of a good many of the inherent defects of the so-called flexible provision of the existing law. The Tariff Commission has reported, or is said to have reported, that the linseed oil producers of this country are now enjoying a situation in which their costs give them an undue margin of advantages over foreign producers, who have to pay the present rate of duty. Their costs, as computed by the commission, must include their raw material outlays at going prices. This being the case, there is no a priori reason to suppose that the action advocated by the Tariff Commission would have any effect whatever upon the price of flaxseed which our farmers have to sell. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce, however, evidently are of a different opinion and apparently have been able to bring the President around to their way of thinking, a state of affairs that that implies either a reflection upon the accuracy of the Tariff Commission's 'scientific' cost analysis or else a repudiation of the whole structure of thought upon which the flexible tariff arrangement rests. The impression is all but inevitable that if only farm producers or any other highly organized and politically powerful group of interests protest against proposed tariff changes loudly enough the Tariff Commission and the whole 'flexible' system of tariff making instantly lose their scientific character and are at once discarded to meet the practical exigencies of the situation. Possibly it is just as well that events take such a turn."

Wheat Crop Report

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for May 12 says: "Official forecast of the winter wheat crop is 444,833,000 bushels, or 150,000,000 less than last year. In effect this forecast is service of notice upon the deficiency countries of the world that for the coming crop year they can receive but little help from the United States in the supply of their bread food. This country is now digging into its reserve for every bushel of wheat that is exports, and this has been the case for some weeks back. Instead of a surplus of 100,000,000 bushels of old wheat, such as we had at the beginning

of the crop year on July 1, 1924, there will be only a meager amount of wheat in the carryover this year. We can place little reliance upon this carryover and must look to the crop now growing for our domestic as well as export needs. Official forecast of about 445,000,000 bushels of winter wheat gives the first view of the situation. The real situation, however, is a little less optimistic than the figures indicate. The forecast was made on conditions up to the end of April. Since then there have been frosts and even freezes in the Southwest. No matter what may be said in favor of the crop, the fact remains that a freeze coming after wheat has jointed does affect the yield..... The 'intention to plant' report some weeks ago called for an increase of 14 per cent. of the acreage. If this materializes, which is doubtful, and an average yield is produced plus the present forecast of winter wheat there will be a little more wheat produced than is actually needed for domestic requirements. This, of course, includes the durum wheat, of which the Northwest produces about 50,000,000 bushels. But it will require the full acreage and an average yield to give us a supply above our average domestic needs. It would be a novel situation for the United States to be for nearly a whole crop year on a domestic basis, but this year it is highly probable."

Wool Prices

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for May 8 says: "The controversy over the existence or absence of a raw wool deficit has been settled by the buyers. Sir Arthur Goldfinch's estimated annual excess of consumption over production may be statistically unimpeachable but, like all statistical estimates, it rests upon assumptions drawn from past experience. Physical shortages are very often translated into market surpluses when prices are maintained at figures which buyers consider too high, and the raw wool market is not unique in this respect. For weeks alarming statements of wool shortages to come convinced the public that the prices of raw material and of woolen fabrics were scheduled for a rise. This belief was sedulously cultivated, although the woolen textile industry was admittedly suffering from already overhigh prices, and manufacturers were showing an increasing reluctance to enter the market for high priced raw materials. It was espcially significant that the French wool buyers should have combated the notion of a wool shortage, for their production costs in other respects have been exceptionally low and their sales have been pushed at the expense of the Bradford manufacturers. Nevertheless they held off ostentatiously from the London auction sales in March awaiting the signal for further price declines. With a large percentage of British woolen machinery idle and the American industry in equally bad shape price declines in raw wool should have been expected. They have come, but only under a pressure that has led to a disastrous break in the market in the middle of the season, at a time when manufacturers are unable to readjust their selling prices to the changed conditions. To revise their quotations on new orders would involve the cancellation of old ones, but a

failure to revise means hesitancy of goods buyers to place orders and a continuance into the summer of the harrassing uncertainties that have become a chronic affliction of the industry since the war..... The development at the London wool auctions will immediately be felt in this country and may act to retard manufacturing activities. The western wool growers will also find the domestic market a bad one in which to sell, and their complaints will help to revive the subdued chorus of disaffection which is constantly distracting the attention of our legislators from other pressing duties. Altogether, the outlook is serious and made worse by the knowledge that there is no panacea in sight."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 12: Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes $6 to $6.50 per barrel, top of $7 in Pittsburgh. Maine sacked Green Mountains $1.50 to $1.65 in city markets; bulk stock 80¢ to 85¢ f. o. b. Presque Isle. Florida fancy tomatoes $4 to $5 per original six-basket carrier in leading markets; mostly $3.50 f. o. b. Ocala. South Carolina and Wakefield cabbage $1.75 to $3.00 per barrel crate in eastern terminals. North Carolina and Virginia strawberries ranged 15¢ to 25¢ quart basis in eastern cities. Best North Carolina Big Boston lettuce sold at $2.25 to $2.50 per 5-peck hamper in New York.

Chicago hog prices closed at $13.35; bulk of sales $12.90 to $13.20; medium and good beef steers $8.75 to $11.10; butcher cows and heifers $4.75 to $11.40; feeder steers $6 to $9; light and medium weight veal calves $8.25 to $11.50; fat lambs $12 to $14; spring lambs $14 to $16.50; yearlings $8.50 to $12; and fat ewes $5 to $8.50.

Grain prices quoted May 12: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.61 to $1.86; No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.80 to $1.85; Kansas City $1.62 to $1.68. No. 2 hard winter Chicago $1.62 3/4; St. Louis $1.62 to $1.63 1/2; Kansas City $1.56 to $1.66. No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.07 to $1.09; No. 3 mixed corn Minneapolis $1.06 1/4 to $1.08 1/4. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.19 to $1.20; St. Louis $1.18 to $1.18 1/2; Kansas City $1.12. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.16; Minneapolis $1.12 1/4 to $1.13 1/4. No. 2 white corn St. Louis $1.16 to $1.16 1/2; Kansas City $1.10 to $1.12; No. 3 white corn Chicago $1.14 1/4. No. 3 white oats Chicago 45 to 46¢; Minneapolis 42 1/2 to 43¢; St. Louis 48¢; No. 2 white oats Kansas City 49 to 49 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets down 32 points, closing at 22.80¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 30 points, closing at 22.26¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 12,	May 11,	May 12, 1924.
20 Industrials	124.45	124.14	89.48
20 R. R. Stocks	97.11	96.43	81.58

(Wall St. Jour., May 13.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XVII, No. 38 Section 1 May 14, 1925.

THE SECRETARY'S PRELIMINARY STATEMENT ON WHEAT FLUCTUATIONS

Secretary Jardine, who has been conducting an investigation into the recent wide fluctuations in the price of wheat, under the authority of the Grain Futures law, yesterday made a preliminary statment concerning the progress of the investigation. In explaining the interest of the Department of Agriculture, which administers the futures law, Secretary Jardine said that while the inquiry had not been concluded and there were indications that evidence existed of an attempted or an actual manipulation of the grain market, no proof had been obtained that would justify prosecutions under the Grain Futures law. In these circumstances, he was seeking to meet the situation by having the Chicago Board of Trade adopt rules which will tend to stop dissemination of false information about grain crops, prevent manipulation, or cornering, of grain markets and stop over-speculative trading. Mr. Jardine said that he had conferred this week with President Carey and other representatives of the Chicago Board of Trade, with a view to having that organization meet the situation by promulgating additonal rules. He suggested to them, he said, that a rule limiting the fluctuations in daily quotations would have the effect of stopping over-speculative trading. The statement was made by Mr. Jardine after consultation with Dr. J. W. T. Duvel, Acting Chief of the Grain Futures Administration, and other officials of the Department of Agriculture. (Press, May 14.)

An Associated Press dispatch from Chicago to-day says: "Officers of the Chicago Board of Trade withheld comment on the statement in Washington of Secretary Jardine that recent heavy fluctuations of grain prices were due, in the first instance, to speculative operations, and that if prosecutions were justified, action would be taken. The Secretary's findings were believed not to have been unexpected here. Directors of the Board of Trade recently authorized an inquiry into statements by local grain men that heavy speculation had been of a manipulative character, and prepared to turn over whatever evidence such an iquiry would develop to Dr. J. W. T. Duvel, Federal Grain Futures Supervisor here. Frank L. Carey and directors of the board indicated that they would withhold any statement pending the direct receipt of Mr. Jardine's report."

BRITISH DRAINAGE SCHEMES

As one of its measures for the relief of unemployment the British Government is assisting to finance agricultural drainage schemes. These schemes are carried out during autumn and winter and consequently each winter's program covers a part of two financial years. In 1923-1924, the latest date for which statistics are obtainable, according to advices received by the Bankers Trust Company of New York, there were 460 such schemes in operation, which cost the Government 203,030 pounds and the owners 103,837 pounds. During the three years 1921-22 to 1922-23 inclusive, there have been 1,356 schemes promoted at a total cost to the State of 687,810 pounds and to the owners of 337,791 pounds or in all 1,025,601 pounds. There are arrangements in force by which these advances are repaid the State but they have not been made public.

Section 2.

California Taxes

An editorial in The Country Gentleman for May 16 says: "In California the farmers have asked the legislature to submit an amendment to the State constitution providing for the taxing of publicly owned utilities the same as privately owned property. Under the present laws a city may buy a street-car line or an electric power plant with tax-free bonds and operate the property without paying any State tax. This cuts the value of such property from the tax rolls and other property has to be taxed at a higher rate to make good the loss in revenue. The farmers complain they receive none of the benefits, yet have to pay for these services. They contend that a municipality that goes into business should not be relieved from any of the usual burdens of Government. They are right."

Cooperative Marketing of Livestock

An editorial in The Farmer for May 9 says: "Here and there over the country, livestock men are considering the question of extending the cooperative idea as applied to the cooperative marketing of livestock. Theoretically, we have taken a long step in that direction through the organization of livestock shipping associations which now run into the thousands and through the operation of centralized marketing plants at most of the principal markets. North-western livestock growers were the leaders in this first step in cooperation. Yet they realize that it is but the first step. Quite recently we have heard from livestock men in the East, West and Middle West who are studying how to take the next step in marketing livestock. The local shipping association has proven its worth. The practicability of grower-controlled sales agencies is also well established. However, this does not mean that the whole job is done because as yet the orderly marketing of livestock has not yet been accomplished, and growers have not yet been able to exert a material influence on general price levels. Such a program may not be complete for some years to come, but livestock growers are at least thinking about it. Over a year ago the cattle raisers of California organized a cattle pool, which operates on much the same principle as the well-known commodity organization. Just at this time the Indiana Farm Bureau Federation is working out a pooling plan for marketing hogs. This plan will not be put into operation until it has been submitted to other producer associations. Similar interest is being shown in Iowa, Ohio and other States. All of these signs of interest indicate that livestock growers feel that they still have work to do. Future progress of this idea of really marketing instead of jobbing livestock on the cooperative plan will be awaited with interest."

Cooperatives in South Africa

Journal of the Department of Agriculture of South Africa for April says: "A very healthy sign in the country's agricultural industry is the number of cooperative societies that are steadily being formed. To-day there are a large number of such organizations representing interests of a wide and divergent nature. It was, therefore, with the object of bringing these various bodies together for the purpose of discussing their mutual interests and difficulties,

that the Registrar of Cooperative Societies sent at the close of last year an invitation to all cooperative societies and companies registered under the Cooperative act to meet in Pretoria. Arrangemen were made for a series of meetings, each being devoted to a section of cooperation where the interests of those concerned were of a natur requiring similarity in the type of organization. The first of these sectional congresses was devoted to cooperative maize and grain societies and was held in January last. It was fruitful of instructive discussion on the cooperative movement, and its minutes furnish very useful information as to the progress made by the movement in South Africa..... It is expected that these sectional congresses will be followed by a general one where the broad features of the movement will be discussed, and also the ways and means for furthering its development."

Farm Credit

An editorial in Boston Financial News for May 12 says: "Has the farmer too much credit? In the face of various plans and proposals to provide the farmer with more and easier credit the question arises as to whether all this additional credit will prove a blessing or a curse, whether the farmer will not be worse off with it. The question may be hooted down by the proponents of further credit expansion, but it deserves serious consideration just the same. Several authorities who know what they are talking about and who have no particular axe to grind have studied the farm situation first hand and have decided that the farmer has too much credit for his own good as it is. North Dakota, perhaps, will illustrate the consequences of this peculiar economic paradox which seems to prove that the less credit a farmer has the better. A year ago North Dakota stood at the bottom of the list; it was worse off than any other State. To-day North Dakota stands at the top, the most prosperous State in the farming section of the United States. The transformation has been worked by the magic of a single crop--and no credit. In the matter of land speculation, it is at least possible that the farmers would have been better off if they had had no credit at all. Plentiful credit at low rates of interest is highly desirable so long as it is used to promote and increase the productiveness of the farm, but if it is to be used for speculation or for the premature purchase of luxuries, it is liable to prove a handicap rather than a help."

Farm Credit in Canada

The Nor'-West Farmer (Winnipeg) for May 5 says: "Doctor Tory's recommendations regarding agricultural credits do not seem to have stirred up any great amount of enthusiasm in this section of the country. While it is freely admitted that agriculture stands to benefit if money can be borrowed at 1½ or 2 per cent less than the present rate, which it is understood would be possible under a Government loaning scheme, few appear at the moment to be interested. Possibly the season has something to do with farmers not being excited over Government loan schemes, spring being the season of optimism in this country; possibly, too, what small experience we have had with Government loan schemes, for example, the Manitoba rural credits, has not been the most favorable. Still, if

the Federal Government is minded to go into the farm loan business and loan money at five or six per cent it should be encouraged to do so. By all means let us have cheap money if it can be secured. But do not be too sure that agricultural credits will work miracles The biggest problem of every farm is within its own line fences. Safer, better farming; intelligent well-directed work, are more likely to make individual farmers and the agricultural industry prosperous than is hot air and cheap Government money; though the latter might help."

Packers Oppose British Food-Law Draft

A London dispatch to the press of May 12 says: "The picture of America leading the world in pure food has been somewhat damaged by protests lodged by Chicago packers against the new food regulations proposed by the Health Ministry. These regulations, when adopted, will prohibit the preservation of ham and bacon by borax, and will cost American packers nearly $4,000,000 a year. The American Government already prohibits the use of borax with meat consumed at home. The protests of the Chicago packers are legitimate enough, and were, in fact, invited by the Health Ministry, which gave out a tentative draft of its new regulations and publicly asked that objections should be filed for considertion. The increased cost of handling meat without borax will be around 75 cents a hundredweight, for it means that American hams and bacon will have to be shipped in cold storage nearly the year around, and that a better grade of meat must be used. It comes in cold storage at present only during the summer months."

Population and Production

Richard T. Ely, Director of the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities, writes on "The Population Bugaboo" in The Country Gentleman for May 16. He asserts that dire predictions of rapid increases should not stampede farmers into expansion. He says in part: "Almost every day a new policy for farm prosperity is urged upon the farmer; few of these, however, take account of population growth and food requirements in the future. If in the near future we shall have 200,000,000 people in the United States, and in the not remote future 300,000,000 and if the population of Europe and the rest of the world increases as rapidly in the twentieth as in the nineteenth century, the farmer may look forward to a prosperity based upon a pressure of population. But these are big 'ifs'. Many people have been more or less alarmed by recent estimates concerning the future population of the world and of the United States. One writer figures that the maximum for the world's future population is 5,200,000,000 considering the probable food production, and that at the present rate of increase this figure will be reached in a little over a century. Another writer estimates the maximum population at 8,000,000,000, which will be attained in 300 years; but the maximum in temperate zones will be reached in 150 years. Estimates for the United States are to the effect that a stationary upper level of about 200,000,000 people will be reached by the end of the present century, whereas a 150,000,000 population will be attained

about 1950. The conclusions from these predictions are that we must increase greatly our production per acre on an enlarged farm area, curtail our consumption, or draw our means of subsistence from other countries, perhaps doing all three things. If these prophecies are correct, the Nation as a whole and farmers in particular will have to face profound changes in agricultural policies, not alone from the standpoint of production but also of consumption and marketing. But are we warranted in assuming any constant rate of growth, like doubling in thirty years, which in a measurable time would cover the whole earth with human beings many deep. It is one thing to talk of growth in the plant and lower animal world; it is a different matter when we consider the human animal endowed with self-consciousness and will power.... As a result of these and other factors it is estimated that the general average increase in agricultural efficiency from 1830 to 1895 was 500 per cent. It does not follow that this is going to continue indefinitely or at the same rate. But let us consider some other facts. In all civilized nations the rate of population growth is falling off..... The progress of medical science and improved living conditions have lowered the death rates for adults as well as children. But what of birth rates? Generally these have been at a higher level than death rates and have not decreased to nearly the same extent as the death rates. We have thus a continuous natural growth of population, but at a somewhat declining rate of growth. Even this is not the whole story. The figures seem to show that birth rates fall much more rapidly among those who have a higher standard of living, including educational advantages. With the spread of democratic ideas and education and with an increase in living standards, we may expect that the birth rates will decline still more rapidly, resulting in an accelerated decline in the natural rates of population growth... Looking to the future of agriculture, in so far as it is affected by population growth, we may conclude that it would be unwise to adopt a policy of rapid land development. Farmers should not be stampeded into too hasty expansion by the alarmist's predictions of a doubled or trebled population in a relatively short time. A sober view of the trend of population growth points to a declining rate of increase....."

Reclamation Project Needs

Completion of settlement and acceleration of agricultural development are the outstanding needs of many Federal reclamation projects, Secretary Work asserted May 11, in a statement summarizing the result of his recent inspection tour. The Secretary said the discovery that "settlers are leaving projects and farmers are failing to take their places" was a cause for "real anxiety" to those who had the cause of reclamation at heart. "The money to repay projects costs comes from the farm and is repaid to the Government by the farmers," he said. "Unless settlers can be attracted to the projects and are able to remain, there will be no one benefited by building them and the Government will not be reimbursed for their cost." (Press, May 12.)

An editorial on the subject in The Journal of Commerce for May 13 says: "Secretary of the Interior Work comes back from an inspection tour of our reclamation projects with some very definite impressions about the existing situation that ought to attract the attention of thoughful students throughout the country..... Unless settlers can be attracted to the projects and are able to remain there will be no one benefited by building them, and the Government will not be reimbursed for their cost.*** 'The Reclamation Service can build irrigation works, but it can not draft settlers.' This is not a new story, but it is both a timely one and a highly important one to the taxpayer, whose money provides these 'projects' which are apparently not much valued by many. It may be taken for granted that the lack of settlers is not a result of widespread lack of due appreciation of truly great opportunities presented farmers, for the simple reason that actual experience shows all too well that no such bonanzas are provided by the irrigation service in question. These enterprises have cost the people of this country many millions of dollars already, and it is by no means clear that they can earn enough to repay even the principal. Yet we continue to hear of new projects in the offing that would require many more millions for construction."

Section 3
MARKET QUOATATIONS

Farm Products

May 13: Chicago hog prices closed at $13.00 for the top and $12.50 to $12.80 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $8.75 to $12:00; butcher cows and heifers $4.75 to $11.50; feeder steers $6 to $9; light and medium weight veal calves $8 to $11.50; fat lambs $12 to $13.75; spring lambs $14 to $16.50; yearlings $8.50 to $12 and fat ewes $5.25 to $8.85.

Grain prices quoted May 13: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.56 1/2 to $1.81 1/2. No. 2 red winter Chicago $1.68 1/2; St. Louis $1.80 to $1.81; Kansas City $1.68. No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.63 to $1.65; Kansas City $1.56 to $1.70. No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.08; No. 3 mixed corn Chicago $1.12; Minneapolis $1.14 1/4 to $1.16 1/4. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.21 to $1.21 1/2; St. Louis $1.17 to $1.17 1/2; Kansas City $1.10. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.16 to $1.18 3/4; Minneapolis $1.09 1/4 to $1.12 1/4. No.2 white corn St. Louis $1.16; Kansas City $1.12; No. 3 white corn Chicago $1.12 1/2 to $1.13 1/2. No. 3 white oats Chicago 43 1/2 to 47¢; Minneapolis 42 to 42 1/2¢; St. Louis 47 to 47 1/2¢ No. 2 white oats Kansas City 49 1/2 to 50¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 44¢; Chicago 41 1/4 to 41 1/2¢; Philadelphia 45¢; Boston 43 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 21 points, closing at 22.59¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 32 points, closing at 21.94¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 13,	May 12,	May 13, 1924.
20 Industrials	124.21	124.45	89.69
20 R. R. stocks	97.13	97.11	81.63

(Wall St. Jour., May 14.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XVII, No. 39 Section 1 May 15, 1925.

CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE TO MEET THE SECRETARY'S SUGGESTIONS

An Associated Press dispatch from Chicago to-day says: "The Chicago Board of Trade will start at once to meet the 'constructive suggestions' of Secretary of Agriculture Jardine made May 13, in Washington, Frank L. Carey, president of the Board of Trade, said May 14 respecting the Secretary's call for limitation on price spreads. Immediate steps will be taken, Mr. Carey said in a statement, to bring the Secretary's recommendations to the attention of the exchange members. The wide fluctuations in grain prices that caused Secretary Jardine to order an investigation of operations of grain operators had confronted the board with a situation entirely new in peace times, Mr. Carey said. 'When there has been opportunity to digest the full report,' said Mr. Carey's statement relative to the Secretary's declarations that excessive speculation must be curtailed, 'the Exchange will at once set about to meet the constructive suggestions it may contain. This will be in line with the policy followed by the exchange since the enactment of the Grain Futures act.....'"

LIVERPOOL TO ACCEPT COTTON STANDARDS

The press to-day states that agreement for the use of universal cotton standards by the Liverpool Cotton Association is naturally assured as a result of negotiations between the association and the United States Department of Agriculture. The report says: "It is understood an agreement has been reached giving Liverpool larger voting strength, but another factor that is believed to have influenced Liverpool to reconsider its decision is the bid of other exchanges for Liverpool's business. Official records show that since Liverpool made its announcement of abandonment of the universal standards, large shipments of American cotton have gone direct to Manchester, instead of by way of Liverpool."

BARNES ON WHEAT OUTLOOK

Glenn Griswold, Chicago correspondent of The Philadelphia Ledger, in to-day's issue quotes Julius Barnes as saying: "You would think America had lost its business sense. We are trying to market our old and new crops as cheaply as possible when the whole world is prepared to respond to advancing prices and will strip us of our old crop anyway. July wheat is selling at nearly $1.80 in Liverpool, and this allows almost every wheat country in the world to make delivery, yet our own new crop is selling for September delivery at $1.40 in the face of a crop prospect that, with only little damage, would put us on an import instead of an export basis. This seems to indicate to me that America has lost its sense of values. The Department of Agriculture shows the world carry-over reduced to 125,000,000 bushels, which, I think, is the lowest on record. This indicates that virtually all of last year's crop has been consumed in spite of economies induced by high prices and a carry-over of 160,000,000 bushels from the previous year. The world must produce about 200,000,000 bushels more than last year to come out even and have a minimum carry-over next season. American mills will feel the results of export business stripping us of supplies within the next four weeks."

Section 3

Agricultural Commission Formed

A Des Moines dispatch to the press of May 14 says: "An agricultural commission, authorized to develop methods of bringing about joint action of all farm organizations with respect to economic and legislative measures, was created May 13 by more than 300 delegates to the farm conference representing the recognized agricultural organizations of the country. No official information was given out as to the make-up of the complete program although recommendations for a law setting up a farm export corporation, shares in which could be acquired by farm organizations on a quota basis, were reported approved. The program also includes, it was reported, a recommendation that the farmer's profit be fixed at 5 per cent and that cost of production by made to include all the factors in farm life that tend to completion of production."

Crop Report

1

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for May 14 says: "Possibly the official forecast of a small winter wheat crop has created the impression that our general crop outlook is not good, but the opposite is the case. Rarely have the prospects of the United States at this time of the year, regarded as a whole, been so favorable. A good agricultural production with the prospect of fair prices is the fairest forecast and realization means new wealth and safeguarded riches It is true that the winter wheat crop will be small, but this is because 9,500,000 acres of the autumn seeding is lost. That land, however, will not lie idle. It will be put into spring crops, and spring work is unusually well advanced. In the past ten years the average spring plowing completed by the first of May has been 71.3 per cent of the whole....On account of our large livestock interest hay is our most valuable crop, nevertheless receiving the scantest attention in business calculations. The condition of meadows, while not quite up to average, is better than a year ago. Pastures, also, which carry the livestock through the summer and autumn are better than average. Outlook for the producers of beef and of pork is for good prices, so the livestock men can look forward with considerable confidence. Cotton is still doubtful. Heavy rains in the Southwest have relieved the drought and filled that section with optimism. The effect of the drought, however, is not yet fully overcome, but at least the present outlook is favorable to the crop in that section and the acreage will be large. In the East conditions are not so promising as the weather has been too cool and dry. On the whole, the present prospect for cotton would be considered favorable, although by no means ideal. Supplies of old grains of all kinds, even oats, are diminishing quite rapidly and Chicago begins to give evidence of scarcity to fill the May contracts. The total grain and cotton carryover will be small, thus preparing the way for profitable prices even for good-sized crops."

2

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for May 14 says: "Since the appearance of our monthly winter wheat report on May 8 we have been in receipt of a number of communications, some asserting that the Government report, which appeared on the same day and showed a condition figure a little more than nine points higher than ours and between eight and nine points higher than the Government's own figures for April 1, was much too high and that ours was a good deal nearer the truth, and others apparently assuming that the Crop Reporting Board was

possessed of all knowledge and wisdom and inquiring the reasons for the difference between our figures and those of the Government. Requests have likewise been made that we explain just how we arrived at a figure of 67.9 per cent of normal to describe the condition of winter wheat on or about the first of May. We feel, therefore, that it would be well at this time to make a statement of general policy in this connection and to give our readers a full statement of methods pursued in the compilation of these reports. (1) First as to the facts. Our estimate of condition of winter wheat was 67.9 per cent and our percentage abandonment stood at 24.7 per cent. These figures were presented as descriptive of the situation existing in the eleven leading producing States, viz.: Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington. Inasmuch as these States normally produce the bulk of our winter wheat, it was assumed for purposes of approximation that conditions existing in them were typical of the entire winter wheat area of the country. Estimates of prospective yield, however, were undertaken only in the States actually covered by our correspondents. The indicated yield in these States, according to our figures, was 309,210,000 bushels. The Government predicts an output of 336,819,000 in these same States, our figure thus standing about 8.2 per cent below that of the Government....(2) Our methods of compiling crop reports are plain and simple, and, so far as such a term is applicable at all in the circumstances, scientific. We request estimates of condition and other facts from some 4,500 correspondents, representing every important producing county in the States covered. These estimates are, in roughly equal proportion, local bankers, farmers and local elevator men or dealers. When the estimates thus obtained are in this office an average of each statistical item is struck for each county, and that average is weighted by the importance of the county in question, as a producer of winter wheat in order to give State and general averages. These State and general averages are published as computed and presented as the estimates of our correspondents who are on the ground. As to whether the Government is right with a May condition of 77 per cent or we with a figure of 67.9 per cent there is unfortunately no way of telling, for the moment at all events. Much the same is to be said of the Government's abandonment figure of 22.5 per cent, as compared with ours of 24.7 per cent. Whether our estimate of a 309,210,000 bushel crop in the eleven leading winter wheat States is more accurate or less accurate than that of 336,819,000 bushels computed by the Government the future will, of course, reveal."

Farm Taxation

An editorial in Michigan Business Farmer for May 9 says: "After an inquiry covering one hundred farms in three counties of Indiana the Department of Agriculture concludes that farm land pays more tax in proportion to its earnings than other real estate pays. This conclusion is not surprising, for all real estate is taxed according to valuation, and farm land is always valued higher than its capacity to earn cash dividends will justify. In most parts of the country farm lands are selling now at prices out of proportion to the cash dividends they will pay on the investment. Good farmers, who are competent business men, buy them on such a basis and prosper in spite of what financiers unfamiliar with agriculture call excessive cost. The reason is evident to farmers if not to others, and it lies in the ability of the farm to

pay other dividends than cash to those who live on and operate it. While such dividends are invisible to the financier and to the economist, they are very real to the man who owns and lives on the farm. They account for the fact that farm land regularly sells beyond the values set by financiers or others who can not realize the invisible returns. But there is a limit to what these unseedn dividends will cover, and those who have paid extravagant prices for land realize that fact. As long as farmers are willing to pay for land more than its cash earnings justify so long will their valuations be high and their taxes high from the standpoint of earning capacity."

Future Wheat Prices

An editorial in The Nor'West Farmer (Winnipeg) for May 5 says: "According to the long range price forecasters and business statisticians including Sir George Paish, reputed to be one of the outstanding financial figures of the Old World, wheat prices for the next few years are almost certain to be high. There is ground for thinking that for some time relatively high prices will prevail. It will be some time before Russia resumes her former status as a wheat exporter; the consumption of wheat is steadily increasing and will increase at a more rapid rate as Europe recovers from the effects of the war; the producing countries are not increasing their wheat acreage and, with the exception of this country, are not likely to. Conditions developing suggest that the wheat grower may be a more important factor in making prices than he has been in the past. He is improving his position from the standpoint of marketing methods and will benefit directly from the situation created by consumption increasing at a faster rate than production. All of this which makes the outlook for the wheat grower much better than at any time since the war."

Wheat Marketing in Canada

The Nor'-West Farmer (Winnipeg) for May 5 says: "Statements have been made by officials of the wheat pools that the great slump in wheat which occurred during March was an attempt on the part of the grain exchange to break the pools. We do not know upon what information the charge is laid, but being reasonably close to the grain exchange, have had some opportunity to observe what was going on there. We venture the remark that the wild unloading of futures by the thousands in Winnipeg who were playing the market and by the tens of thousands in the country who were doing the same, had more to do with carrying the price of wheat from around two dollars to the lowest point it touched on its downward plunge than had the grain exchange. To us it appeared that members of the Winnipeg grain exchange were too busy executing orders for customers to take much interest in engineering a slump in wheat prices, even if they could have done so, which is unlikely. A point that appears to be overlooked by those charging the grain exchange with the attempt to wreck the pools is that in no year within memory have individual members of the grain exchange made more money than they have this year. If the wheat pools were influential in forcing wheat prices up to and above the two-dollar level, as some claim they were, by doing so they rendered important service to grain brokers, since the advance developed the greatest orgy of speculation known in the history of the Winnipeg grain exchange, and incidentally made the marketing of the 1924 the most profitable of any crop ever marketed in Western Canada. Why should brokers kill the goose that lays the eggs of gold ? Bull markets are always profitable for brokers. The public speculates on one side of the market only. For grain brokers to wax prosperous all that's needed is a bull market all the time."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products May 14: Chicago hog prices closed at $12.30 for the top and $11.90 to $12.15 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.75 to $11.25; butcher cows and heifers $4.65 to $11.35; feeder steers $6 to $9; light and medium weight veal calves $7.75 to $11.25; fat lambs $12 to $13.75; spring lambs $14 to $16.50; yearlings $8.50 to $12; fat ewes $5.25 to $8.85.

Florida Spaulding Rose potatoes advanced $1 to $1.50, closing at $6.50 to $7.00 per barrel in leading markets. South Carolina Irish Cobblers $5.50 to $6.25 per barrel in eastern cities; $5.50 to $5.75 f.o.b. Charleston. Strawberries sold at slightly higher prices in the East but irregular elsewhere. Best Alabama and Mississippi stock brought $3 to $3.50 per barrel crate in midwestern cities. Virginia Wakefield $2 to $3.25, top of $4 in Boston, with South Carolina arrivals mostly $2.25 to $3.00 in eastern terminals.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 44¢; Chicago 41¢; Philadelphia 45¢; Boston 43 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted May 14: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.60 1/2 to $1.85 1/2. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.85 to $1.87. No.2 hard winter St. Louis $1.67 to $1.68; No.3 hard winter Chicago $1.66 3/4. No.2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.08 1/2; No.3 mixed corn Chicago $1.13; Minneapolis $1.05 3/4 to $1.06 3/4. No.2 yellow corn Chicago $1.20 to $1.21; St. Louis $1.17 to $1.17 1/2; Kansas City $1.12. No.3 yellow corn Chicago $1.14 to $1.18; Minneapolis $1.09 3/4 to $1.12 3/4. No.2 white corn Chicago $1.16 3/4; St. Louis $1.15 1/2 to $1.16 1/2; Kansas City $1.10 to $1.11. No.3 white oats Chicago 44 1/2 to 46 1/2¢; Minneapolis 42 3/4 to 43 1/4¢; St. Louis 47 to 48¢; No.2 white oats Kansas City 48 3/4 to 49¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 34 points, closing at 22.93¢ per lb. New York May future contracts advanced 21 points, closing at 22.15¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 14,	May 13,	May 14, 1924
20 Industrials	124.16	124.21	88.77
20 R.R. stocks	96.85	97.13	81.59

(Wall St. Jour., May 15.)

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DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. XVII, No. 40 Section 1 May,16, 1925.

COFFEE SITUATION A Rio de Janeiro dispatch to the press of May 16 says: "Investigators have been sent to the United States to learn 'the truth' regarding the sudden decrease in purchases by American coffee importers and the consequent accumulation of immense stocks at Santos. The dispatch of these investigators was made known May 15 by Carlos de Campos, president of the State of Sao Paulo, who is here to confer with President Bernardes. 'The Sao Paulo coffee defense institute is taking the necessary measures to prevent a collapse of the market,' said President de Campos, 'and the State Government is seeking the cooperation of the neighboring coffee States with the object of preventing a financial crisis in case of a break in the market. Sao Paulo is unaware of the real cause of America's refusal to buy Brazilian coffee and doubts the statement that it is wholely because the American consumers are unable to buy due to high prices demanded by the local producers..... We now have men in the United States after the truth. Their report will influence the future course of action of the Sao Paulo coffee defense institute.'"

A New York dispatch says: "The National Coffee Roasters Association is sending two representatives to Brazil to confer with Sao Paulo interests on the present demoralized coffee market here, it was announced May 15."

SUGAR OUTPUT A New York dispatch to the press to-day states that the Federal Sugar Refining Company predicted yesterday that Cuba will produce about 5,300,000 tons of sugar this year if present production is maintained to the end of the season.

FOX BREEDING SCHOOL A New York dispatch to the press to-day says: "The silver fox, rare fur bearer in its wild state, has attained the dignity of causing a national conference on its breeding and protection. May 15 the executive committee of the American Fox Institute opened a two-day convention with representatives from scattered sections of the United States and several from Europe present. Louis Edward Rusch, of Washington, D. C., president of the institute, announced that the Rusch School of Fox Breeding, endowed by him and chartered by the State of Pennsylvania as a nonprofitmaking educational institution, will open soon at North East, Pa., with 30 students."

FARMERS DEMAND FREIGHT RATE CUT.... The New York Times of May 15 says: "A brief filed by the National Grange in connection with the investigation of general freight rates by the Interstate Commerce Commission, as authorized by a recent act of Congress, demands a general revision downward of the rates on farm products. The document prepared by T. C. Atkeson, Washington representative of the National Grange, maintains that all freight rate revision since the war has been discriminatory and harmful to farmers. Depression in agriculture continues, part of it being due to an increase of freight rates while the price of farm products was on the decline....."

Section 2

Agricultural Situation

The department wheat report is the subject of an editorial in The Washington Post for May 15, which, after entensive quotations, says: "While the outlook in the United States seems somewhat discouraging, and to bear out fully Mr. Lowden's pessimistic survey two weeks ago, it should be borne in mind that two factors, both of which are the products of the return to normal conditions, have largely contributed to the present situation. In the first place, the unfavorable comparison with the average results of the past decade are offset by the fact that in 1915 and the years immediately following, the war was in full progress, calling for every possible effort to raise bumper crops. In particular, after the entry of this country into the war, in the spring of 1917, thousands of acres were immediately converted into wheat fields and the agricultural forces of the Nation were concentrated with unheard-of tension to raise all the wheat possible for the maintenance of the huge allied armies and populations. The need for this having been allayed after the termination of hostilities, with the consequent drop in the foreign demand, the farmers, in the slump which followed, diverted their efforts into other channels of produce, and began once more to raise diversified crops on the pre-war scale. This must be remembered when wheat reduction is cited, although the exact ratio between the latter and the increase in other cereals and farm products is not at hand. Nevertheless, allowing for an unfavorable balance, the general situation can hardly be described as alarming. A drop of 30,000,000 bushels--which is not even established as yet--does not necessarily imply a severe shortage, and at the worst merely promises more agitation in the retail markets than is desirable. It is to be hoped that before this can get entirely under way the situation will right itself with the additional impetus of a fair and equitable distribution of profits against next winter."

Binder Twine

An editorial in Farm Implement News for May 7 says: "Some farmers apparently feel that the most important thing to be achieved by them is to buy binder twine at the whole sale price. Possibly this great ambition has been inspired by their farm bureau manager, county agent, a farm paper which has a 'red' editor, or by some other person who expects to make a few dollars by promoting cooperative buying. To save a cent or two per pound they apparently are willing to assume the risk of running short at harvest time and being unable to procure eleventh-hour requirements in time to prevent a loss of grain..... If any of the twine manufacturers are wondering why some dealers refuse to place orders and why some others buy only in small quantities, they need not go farther for the answer. What is the dealer to do if he is located in a section where the cooperative-buying bug has bitten most of the farmers? Our answer to that question is that he ought to put on an intensive order-seeking campaign before the cooperative and

collective lists are made up. It goes without saying that he could convince some of the farmers that it is to their interest to buy from dealers and pay a price that will give the dealer a reasonable margin. True, there wouldn't be much of the margin left after the expense of an intensive order-seeking campaign had been defrayed, but we have an idea that such a campaign prosecuted vigorously by dealers would kill this cooperative buying thing in course of time..... We hate to see dealers back down and admit that the cooperative thing has licked them. We'd like to see them fight it out. We'd like also to see the manufacturers encourage them in their effort to slay the thing. The manufacturers know that the best interests of all concerned--the farmers, the dealers and themselves--will be served by restoring the retail twine business to its former position. Their sales policy should be framed with that in view."

Cooperative Dairying

An editorial in The Dairy Record for May 6 says: "The farmer, during the past six years, has been the subject of more free advice than any other mortal in history.' Thus speaks Mr. B. F. Sheridan, President of the Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, Guernsey Breeders' Association, and he probably speaks the truth. Only, unfortunately, he did not stop there, but proceeded to add his quota of free advice. Declaring that a program of cooperative marketing is the only way to save the Wisconsin dairy farmer from bankruptcy, Mr. Sheridan is quoted as pointing out that Wisconsin dairy farmers sold 10,000,000,000 pounds of milk in 1924 for 'a loss' of $48,000,000 as compared with 1923. To prove his contention, he adds that, in addition to his loss, 500,000 pounds of American cheese were sold at 4¢ less a pound than in the previous year; 674,000 pounds of foreign cheese were sold for 5.8¢ a pound less; 4,000,000 pounds of butter were sold at 4.6¢ a pound less and 90,000,000 pounds of whole milk at an average of 40¢ per hundred pounds less than in 1923. He is quoted as saying that these figures show that the dairy farmers of Wisconsin are facing bankruptcy, unless they take advantage of the opportunity offered for cooperative farming. The premises upon which such conclusions are based are not only riduculous, but are harmful to the cause of cooperative marketing. They place upon a cooperative organization the obligation of securing as good prices in seasons of heavy production as in years of light supply, in the face of the law of supply and demand. Even the bitterest enemy of cooperative selling could not broadcast a more damaging statement. Cooperative marketing can not reasonably be expected to return the same level of prices in seasons of heavy production as it can in seasons of light production, nor can its failure to do so be charged against it. Such conditions will operate whether cooperative organizations flourish or whether they fail. To say that cooperative marketing can prevent such a conditions as Mr. Sheridan is credited with outlining is an injustice both to such organizations and to dairy farmers. We do not believe that constructive cooperative

leaders will thank him for the use of such arguments in attempting to sell the idea of cooperative marketing. To Mr. Sheridan's statement that price declines mean bankruptcy, we will give little consideration. If the same logic is followed, every automobile manufacturer and every steel company which reduced the prices of their products during 1924 are also facing bankruptcy, every time a farmer refuses to pay a hired hand war time wages, he is placing that same laborer in a position where he, too, is facing bankruptcy."

Farmers' Conference

A Des Moines dispatch to the press of May 15 says: "Agriculture will be able to solve its own problems if it is given proper tariff protection and equalization with other industries, representatives of twenty-four farmers' organizations decided at Des Moines May 14. The session ended in a conference called for the purpose of reaching an agreement on measures that promise revival of the prosperity for the farmers. No proposal for agricultural price-fixing was brought out. The cooperative movement, under the program adopted, will be extended if possible to the cotton growers of the South, and an effort also is to be made to 'join hands with the cooperatives of New England.' The one specific legislative request made by the conference was for creation of an export corporation. The farmers do not want a Government subsidy, the council declared, but the opportunity of working out the problem of rejuvenation themselves aided by 'proper legislative remedial measures.' The council was authorized to bring about joint action of all farm organizations 'with respect to economic and legislative proposals,' both State and national."

Farm Prices Compared

An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer for May 9 says: "Many people seem to take a morbid delight in comparing prices and net income of the present with the years previous to 1914, and because they find that prices are higher and the net income frequently lower they jump to the conclusion that somebody is systematically robbing them. We well know that the average human being has a very short and imperfect memory. In the first place, most people, including farmers, were no better off on the average during the ten years previous to 1914 than they are now. Those who can truthfully recall their personal experiences for twenty years previous to the war will remember many years of mighty poor sledding. The trouble with most Americans is that they have a vivid memory of the two or three flush years, 1918 to 1920, but think it was a prewar experience. Another thing they forget is that during the past ten years they have added many things to their mode of living so that their standards are higher and much more expensive than ten years ago, hence the same income does not meet their present needs. This is not intended as an excuse nor an apology for the inequalities that actually exist. It is true that the wages of laborers and the profits in business have been raised to meet the increased expenses of living while the prices of farm products have not been proportionately increased. The chief reason is that the supply of farm products in relation to the demand has been equal to or in excess of it, while the supply of labor has been less than the demand.

Another reason is that farmers generally have left the selling of their products to other hands, while the producers of manufactured goods have attended to the creation of their own selling organizations. We present this merely as an endeavor to create a better understanding of the economic changes that have taken place recently and to bring home to farmers the fact that the work of improvement must be done by themselves in the light of the changed conditions on the farm as well as in the cities."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture 1 An editorial in to-day's Washington Post says: "Secretary Jardine's argument against the persistent manipulation of the grain market is worthy of notice. The annual intrigue against the price level which is effected by spreading horrific rumors broadcast is an abominable custom which should be sternly suppressed. The Secretary's suggestion, therefore, of a definite limit of the price spread in order to make wide variation from day to day impossible, is wholly admirable. While Mr. Jardine admits that as yet the evidence of deliberate manipulation is not of a species susceptible of proof, (gentlemen who indulge in this practice know their business as a rule and are not likely to leave a trail behind them) there can be no question that within the last three months the usual 'scare' has been augmented and intensified by nothing more than downright juggling. For example, on March 30 there was found an actual price range of 13½ cents a bushel in various markets throughout the country. The damage such an abnormal state of affairs can work is obvious, aside from the unsettled condition it creates among the more isolated agricultural population who can have no hope or basis of assurance so long as such variation rules. Wherefore, Mr. Jardine's determination to institute a rigid inquiry into this market-juggling and his promise to prosecute the culprits whenever and wherever found is encouraging and an impressive assurance that the Department of Agriculture is ruled by a public servant no less capable than patriotic."

2 An editorial in to-day's Philadelphia Ledger says: "The upshot of the inquiry into recent sweeping changes in the wheat market is a Department of Agriculture recommendation for the setting of a limit on the daily spread of prices. This investigation was under the authority of the Capper-Tincher Grain Futures act, the law aimed to prevent all gambling and manipulation and forever remove fear, fever and fret from grain marketing. Evidence of manipulation was found, but proof necessary to convinction was not unearthed. The panacea to end 'May squeezes' and 'bear raids,' 'vicious short selling' and 'violent fluctuations' failed in the one test it has faced. Fifty years of legislative tinkering with 'The Pit' came to nothing. In the Wheat Belt wheat has a greater influence upon politics than

any other factor. Wheat has sent more men to Legislatures, Governors' mansions and Congress than any issue, with the possible exception of railroads. The Grangers of the seventies came out of its stubble. Wheat had as much to do with with the Bryanism of the nineties as 'Free Silver'. The Nonpartisan League flourished because it appealed to wheat growers. Every decade or so there is a 'farm revolt' based on the woes of wheat. Many of these have tried to clean up the grain exchanges by legislation. Some of them have led to 'reforms from within' the eight first-class exchanges. There have been undeniable abuses. In the three years after the war swift and violent price changes were the worst in history. 'The Pit' has a way of going stark crazy at times, and this always maddens the wheat country..... Chicago's Board of Trade seems ready to meet Secretary Jardine's suggestions. If so, another of those 'reforms from within' may help where Federal laws and regulations fail. The wheat flurry and its aftermath emphasize the foolishness of trying to control world markets at Washington. Congress can not take the fret and fever and fear out of the grain pits."

Section 4
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 15: Chicago hog prices closed at $12 for the top; $11.70 to $11.90 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.60 to $11.15; butcher cows and heifers $4.65 to $11.25; feeder steers $6 to $9; light and medium weight veal calves $7.75 to $11; fat lambs $11.75 to $13.50; spring lambs $14 to $16.50; yearlings $8.50 to $11.75; fat ewes $5.25 to $8.60

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 44¢; Philadelphia 45¢; Chicago 41 1/2¢; Boston 43 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted May 15: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.61 to $1.86. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.90; Kansas City $1.77. No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.68; Kansas City $1.60 to $1.77. No. 3 hard winter Chicago $1.67 3/4 to $1.69 1/2. No. 2 mixed corn Kansas City $1.07 1/2; No. 3 mixed corn Minneapolis $1.04 to $1.05. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago $1.18; St. Louis $1.15; Kansas City $1.12. No. 3 yellow corn Chicago $1.13 to $1.15 1/2; Minneapolis $1.08 to $1.11. No. 2 white corn St. Louis $1.13 1/2; Kansas City $1.11. No. 3 white oats Chicago 44 to 46 3/4¢; Minneapolis 41 3/4 to 42 3/4¢; St. Louis 46 1/2 to 48¢. No. 2 white oats Kansas City 30 to 51¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 4 points, closing at 22.97¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 11 points, closing at 22.04¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 15,	May 14,	May 15, 1924.
20 Industrials	126.00	124.16	89.18
20 R. R. stocks	97.20	96.85	81.77

(Wall St. Jour., May 16.)

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